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1990

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Matthew J. Smith

Pursuant to §8-15-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, it is with satisfaction that I submit the 1990 Annual Report on the Judiciary.

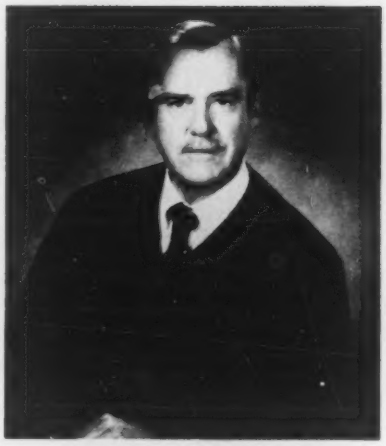
The report highlights the activities of the state's judicial system during the calendar year and is a valuable source of information on the operation of the Judiciary.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the staff of the State Court Administrative Office who were responsible for the publication of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Smith
State Court Administrator

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Thomas F. Fay

This year we begin a 108-month countdown not only to a new decade, but also to a new millennium. As the chief executive officer of the Judiciary, I want to enter that millennium fully prepared for its challenges—some of which we may not even be able to imagine today. In addition to developing more efficient ways of handling a growing caseload, a critical concern is our need for a wider range of sentencing options.

The statistical message is clear—prisons are extremely expensive and they do not rehabilitate offenders. Although we are spending more tax dollars, we are not breaking the cycle of crime. In fact, statistics show that violent crime is on the rise. Therefore, development of other, more cost effective, truly rehabilitative, sentencing options to prison must become a major concern for court systems nationwide. Our goal in creating such options is to empower judges, save tax dollars, reduce street crime, and improve the lives of thousands of Rhode Islanders.

Turning the focus to current concerns, the courts have continued to make strides in several important areas despite the state budget crisis. Arbitration of civil cases, for instance, continued to demonstrate the benefits of alternative dispute resolution. Based on the positive results we have had with arbitration, we expect pending civil cases in Providence County to dip below 4,000 for the first time in a decade. Because of this, we are planning to expand arbitration to the outlying counties, and we have also begun exploring the possibility of implementing similar cost-effective approaches to case resolution in Family Court.

Another area of accomplishment this year has been the preliminary work on the state's first statewide Criminal Justice Information System. We anticipate that this shared system will enhance law enforcement as well as case processing in the courts.

I invite you to join me in building on the momentum we have gained by helping to shape a judicial system prepared to meet the needs and challenges of the coming millennium. By working together, I am convinced that we can build a model, established on the highest professional and ethical standards, and utilizing effective management and modern equipment, which will provide our citizens with an exemplary judicial system.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Fay

Thomas F. Fay
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

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This report covers calendar year 1990

Pursuant to Chapter 8-15 of the Rhode Island General Laws this report was prepared by the:

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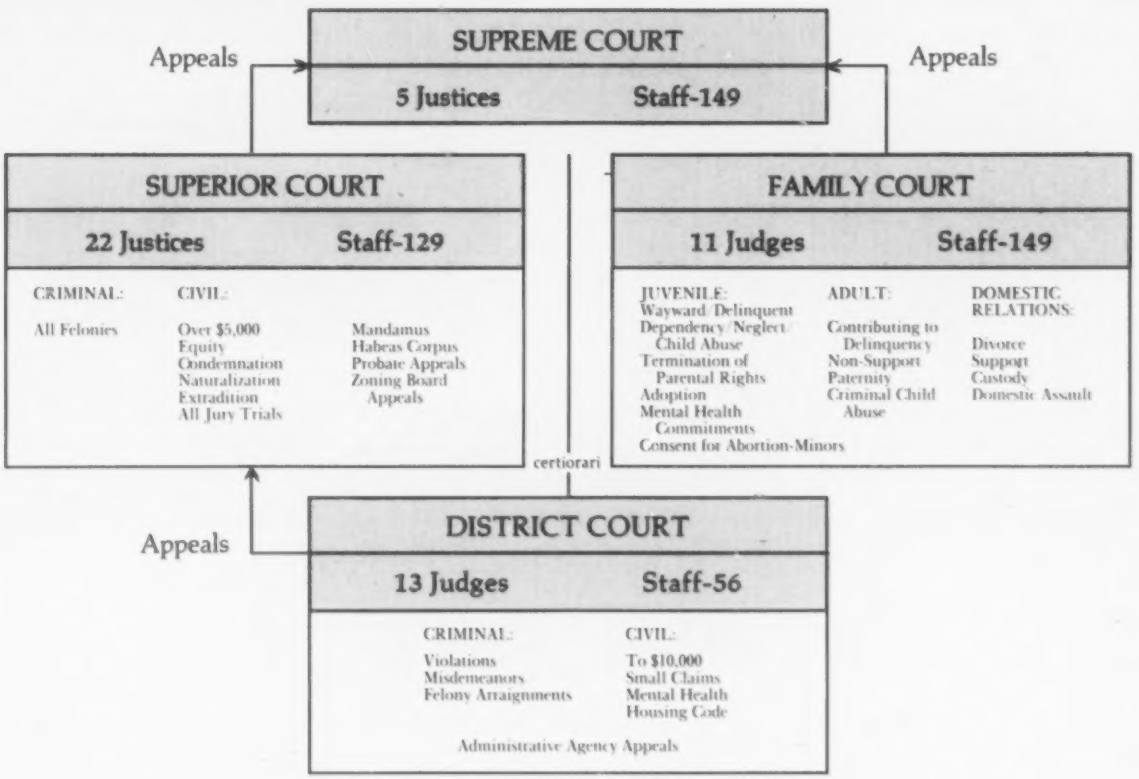
COVER: The Providence skyline as viewed from the statue of Roger Williams overlooking the city.
A. J. DiSalvo

RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE

Rhode Island has a unified court system composed of four statewide courts: the District and Family Courts are trial courts of special jurisdiction, the Superior Court is the general trial court, and the Supreme Court is the court of review.

The entire system in Rhode Island is state-funded with the exception of probate courts, which are the responsibility of cities and towns, and the municipal courts, which are local courts of limited jurisdiction. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the executive head of the state court system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints a state court administrator and an administrative staff to handle budgetary and general administrative functions. Each court has responsibility over its own operations and has a chief judge who appoints an administrator to handle internal court management.



Staffing and jurisdictional organization of the Rhode Island Courts.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court has final advisory and appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, and it also has supervisory powers over the other state courts. In addition, the Supreme Court has general advisory responsibility to both the Legislative and Executive branches of the state government concerning the constitutionality of legislation. Another responsibility of the Supreme Court is the regulation of admission to the Bar and the discipline of its members.

The State Court Administrative Office performs personnel, fiscal, and purchasing functions for the state court system. In addition, the Administrative Office serves a wide range of management functions, including the development and operation of automated information systems for all courts; long-range planning; the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on court caseloads and operations; the development and implementation of management improvement projects in specified areas; and the supervision of facilities.

The State Law Library is also under the direction of the Supreme Court. The library's primary function is to provide reference materials and research services for the judges and staff of the courts. However, it also serves the general community as the only comprehensive law library in the state.

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Civil matters concerning claims in excess of $5,000 and all equity proceedings are heard in this court. The Superior Court also has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses except as otherwise provided by law, and thus all indictments by grand juries and information charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned there. The Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction from decisions of local probate and municipal courts. Also, except as specifically provided by statute, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court are brought to the Superior Court on appeal for a trial de novo. In addition, there are numerous appeals and statutory proceedings, such as redevelopment, land condemnation cases, zoning appeals, and enforcement of arbitrators' awards, which are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. The Superior Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with Supreme Court over writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, and certain other prerogative writs. Appeals from the Superior Court are heard by the Supreme Court.

Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Superior and Family Courts

FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was created to focus special attention on individual and social problems concerning families and children. Consequently, its goals are to assist, protect, and if possible, restore families whose unity or well-being is being threatened. This court is also charged with assuring that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and control conducive to their welfare and the best interests of the state. Additionally, if children are removed from the control of their parents, the court seeks to secure for them care equivalent to that which their parents should have given them.

Reflecting these specific goals, the Family Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine all petitions for divorce and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings, such as motions relating to the distribution of

property, alimony, support, and the custody of children. It also hears petitions for separate maintenance, and complaints regarding support for parents and children. The Family Court also has jurisdiction over those matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused or mentally defective or mentally disordered children. It also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child marriages, paternity proceedings, and a number of other matters involving domestic relations and juveniles.

Appeals from decisions of the Family Court are taken directly to the state Supreme Court.

DISTRICT COURT

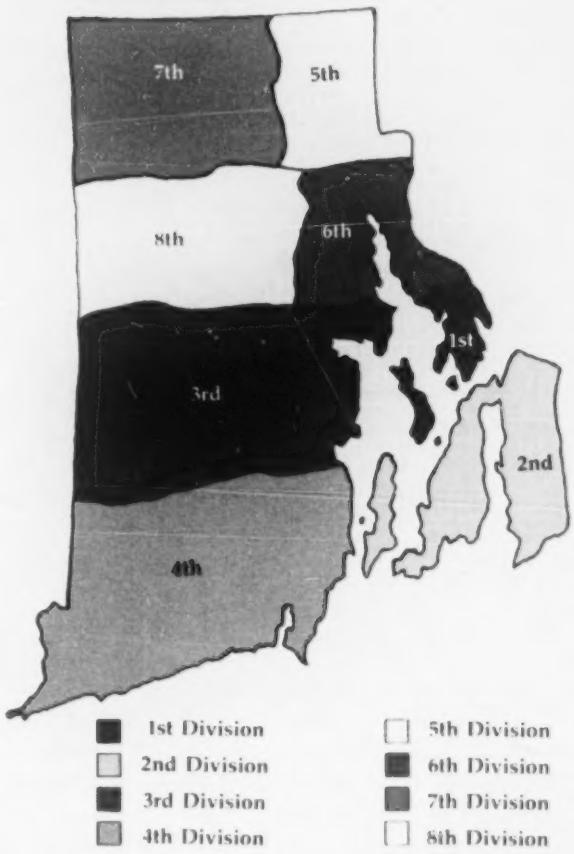
Most people who come before courts in this state have contact initially with the District Court. Thus, the District Court has been divided into eight divisions to give the people of the state easy, geographic access to the court system.

The jurisdiction of the District Court includes small claims that can be brought without a lawyer for amounts under $1,500 and actions at law concerning between $5,000 and $10,000 with transfer to the Superior Court available upon demand of either party. This court also has jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances or regulations.

The District Court also has original jurisdiction over all misdemeanors where the right to a jury trial in the first instance has been waived. If a defendant invokes the right to a jury trial, the case is transferred to the Superior Court.

Unlike many limited jurisdiction courts, the Rhode Island District Court does not handle traffic violations, except for a very few of the most serious offenses.

Appeals from District Court decisions in both civil and criminal cases go to the Superior Court for trial de novo. In actual practice, this right to a new trial is seldom used, and District Court dispositions are final in 96.7% of all criminal cases and 98.5% of all civil cases. An additional category of minor offenses, called violations, was created by the Legislature in 1976. Decisions of the District Court on violation cases are final and subject to review on writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court.



Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Divisions of the District Court.

Since October 1976, the District Court has had jurisdiction over hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental health, drug abuse, and alcoholism laws. The District Court also has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the adjudicatory decisions of the state tax administrator and several regulatory agencies and boards. The court also has the power to order compliance with the subpoenas and ruling of the same agencies and boards. In 1977 this court's jurisdiction was again increased to include violations of state and local housing codes. District Court decisions in all these matters are only subject to review by the Supreme Court.

1990 IN THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS
JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90*	FY 91*
STATE BUDGET	1,530,983,417	1,690,514,501	1,893,170,244	2,047,920,815	2, 071,297,952
Increase	95,273,805	159,531,084	202,655,743	154,750,571	23,377,137
JUDICIAL BUDGET	21,767,858	24,865,040	29,771,545	32,146,649	32,711,469
Increase	1,980,675	3,097,182	4,906,505	2,375,195	564,820
JUDICIAL SHARE	1.42%	1.47%	1.57%	1.57%	1.58%

*budget as enacted — previous years are actual expenditures

The judicial system collects millions of dollars every year in fines, fees, and costs, which are turned over to the state treasury. In addition, federal reimbursement programs generated $983,331 in revenues in FY91. Nevertheless, the judiciary's share continues to be minuscule relative to the total state budget. It is also disproportionately small when compared to other state agencies in the justice system, noteably corrections.

During 1990 Rhode Island experienced the same economic downturn as the other states in the northeast, and thus the state budget has shown a static growth. The "belt-tightening" that has been required during this recessionary period is expected to continue for at least two to three years. The Judiciary has felt the impact of this along with the executive and legislative branches, and even though the actual dollars budgeted have increased marginally, the amount is totally inadequate to meet the rising costs.

The problem is that the demands being placed on the judicial system are growing, and the right to a speedy trial and swift resolution of civil matters are responsibilities that a justice system cannot defer.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS
Department of Corrections vs. Judiciary

1990 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE VIOLENT CRIMES INDEMNITY FUND

(Pursuant to RIGL 12-25-11)

Fund balance as of October 1, 1989	$192,507
Amount of payments ordered to be paid to the fund during the year*	$1,707,566
Funds collected during the year (includes $443,000 Federal VOCA grant)	$1,842,230
Number of claims filed during the year	368
Number of claims adjudicated during the year	186
Number of claims awarded	186
Number of claims denied (66 cases were administratively dismissed because claimant not eligible)	0
Funds disbursed during the year	$2,058,813

*Federal fiscal year 10/1/89 to 9/30/90

1990 REPORT ON THE COURT'S DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

(Pursuant to RIGL 12-28-10 and 12-29-7)

For the second consecutive year the Rhode Island Supreme Court contracted with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence to administer a court-based Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy Program for victims of domestic violence and abuse who use the court system.

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide consortium of non-profit domestic violence programs including six shelters for battered women (the Blackstone Shelter, Elizabeth Buffum Chace House, Newport County Women's Resource Center, Sojourner House, Women's Center of Rhode Island, Women's Resource Center of South County) and a batterer's treatment program (Brother to Brother).

The Coalition and the member organizations assist individuals throughout the state who are petitioning the courts for domestic abuse restraining orders.

In Providence County, the Coalition operates an office on the second floor of the Garrahy Judicial Complex specifically for this purpose. In addition, through the Coalition and its member organizations, advocates are available in every division of the District Court and in Providence County Superior Court to shepherd domestic violence victims through the sometimes confusing criminal justice system.

In 1990 the Coalition's Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy Program assisted over 2,500 petitioners for domestic abuse restraining orders and over 4,599 victims of domestic violence crimes. These statistics represent a 36% increase over the previous year.

1990 REPORT ON THE STATE COURT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

(Pursuant to RIGL 12-28-10)

Justice Assistance, under contract with the state courts, has operated Project Victim Services since 1985. The project exists to minimize the aftershocks of crime and provide victims of crime with a voice in our justice system. Through counseling and advocacy, Project Victim Services protects victims' rights, guides victims through the complications of the legal process and provides them with practical and emotional support. The professional staff of Project Victim Services serves as a channel for questions, frustrations, fears and even grief as they help victims through difficult times on the way to the restoration of their lives and businesses.

Project Victim Services provided assistance to 2,279 more crime victims in 1990 than 1989. A summary of services is as follows:

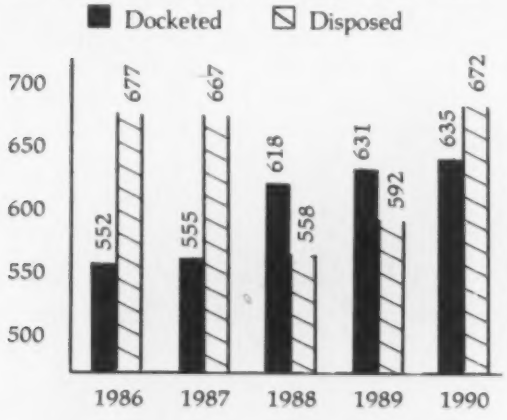
	1989	1990
Enrollment	2,756	5,035
Disposition Outcome		
a) Bench Warrant Issued	*	916
b) Case Dismissed	55	151
c) Entered Diversion Program	*	25
d) Case Filed	21	35
e) Case Filed With Restitution	*	24
f) Guilty	5	10
g) Not Guilty	1	10
h) Nolo Contendre	794	1,727
i) Case Passed For Trial	1	709
j) Case Waived	*	55
k) Pending	1,879	1,373
Services Provided		
a) Case Status Notification	2,756	5,035
b) Court Escort Service	378	957
c) Crime Impact Statements	755	2,366
d) Crisis Counseling	52	1,561
e) Employer Intervention	5	1
f) Referral Service	1,031	302
g) Restitution Service	30	641
h) System Orientation	2,756	5,035

**not available*

SUPREME COURT

One highlight of the 1990 calendar year for the Supreme Court has been a 13.5% increase in dispositions. The total number disposed has been 672, which is 80 more cases than were handled in 1989.

CASES DOCKETED VS. CASES DISPOSED



Dispositions have also been higher at each stage of the process; the number disposed prior to the motions calendar has risen by 20 since last year, the cases disposed on the motion calendar have gone up by 35, and the number of opinions has increased by 14. Based on percentages, the activity on the motions calendar has increased the most. Dispositions at this stage have gone up 21% compared to 1989 and have risen by nearly 50% (48.5%) since 1988.

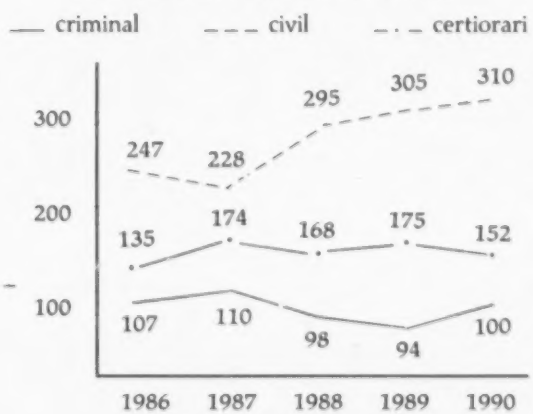
Even with greater activity this year on the motions calendar, the breakdown of how cases are disposed has remained the same. Approximately three quarters of the cases (75.5%) were disposed without full briefing or oral argument, and one quarter (24.5%) went through the full opinion process.

Disposition of the majority of appeals via the motion calendar has had an impact on the time to disposition. This year's results show that just over a third of the cases (39.3%) were handled in under six months from the date of docketing, roughly three quarters (73.2%) were processed within a year, and the remaining 26.8% took more than a year.

The average time to disposition for all cases has been 8.5 months this year, which is comparable to what it was in both 1988 and 1989. Between 1985 and 1988 the Supreme Court made significant strides in reducing delay, and as a result the average time to disposition dropped from 13.7 to 8.5 months, where it has stayed since then.

While dispositions have been on the increase, the number of appeals docketed has been almost the same as a year ago. There were 635 cases docketed in 1990 and 631 in 1989.

CHANGE IN DOCKETED CASES

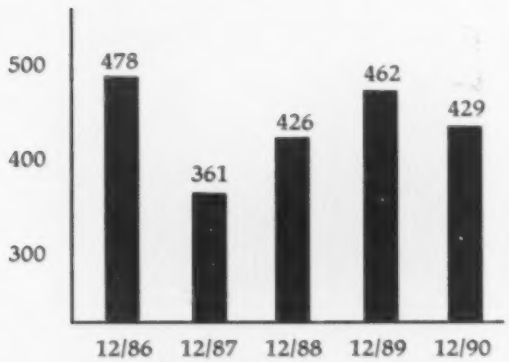


However, even though the total number docketed has shown no significant change, there have been fluctuations within the various case categories. For example, petitions for writs of certiorari have dropped by 23 cases this year, a dip of about 13%. A year ago there were 175 petitions for certiorari filed, and this year there have been 152. There has been an increase of 16 appeals in the general, catch-all category "other," which includes writs of habeas corpus, miscellaneous petitions, advisory opinions, and disciplinary actions. Appeals in this category rose from 57 to 73. The other two categories, criminal and civil appeals, have also been higher this year, but only marginally, Criminal appeals went up from 94 to 100, and civil appeals increased from 305 to 310.

With no change in filings and a 13% increase in dispositions, the number of disposed cases has exceeded new appeals by 37. This has

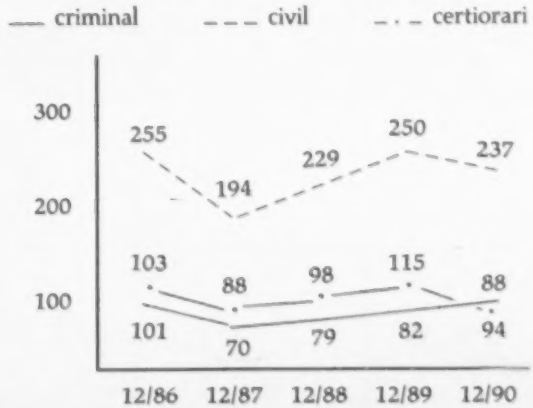
brought about a reduction in the pending caseload, which has dropped from 463 to 429 since last year. Two categories in particular have been affected — petitions for certiorari, which have decreased from 115 to 88 pending cases (a difference of 23.5%), and civil appeals, which have dropped from 250 to 237 pending cases. There has been only one category where the number pending has risen slightly — criminal appeals. The number pending in this area has gone up from 82 to 94.

PENDING CASELOAD AT END OF YEAR



At the end of the year the court had 77 appeals which were fully briefed and ready for oral argument. This is comparable to what was pending at this stage at the end of 1989, and these cases will all be heard by the end of May. There were also 97 appeals waiting to be heard on the motions calendar, which is an increase by almost one third compared to last year. However, since the court will be hearing more motions each month than it did a year ago, these also will be handled by the end of May.

PENDING CASELOAD BY TYPE OF CASE



PREBRIEFING CONFERENCES AID IN REDUCING DELAY

The Appellate Screening Unit is an integral part of the Supreme Court. The unit schedules prebriefing conferences, prepares reports prior to oral argument, and also handles special projects that the court may request. The unit reported that 242 of the 340 cases conferenced this year were assigned to the Show Cause Calendar, which has increased the number of appeals disposed at this early stage in the process. Another factor which has affected dispositions at this stage has been the addition of the Chief Justice to the conference calendar. Previously only associate justices handled conferences.

Clerk office employees Cathy Cacchiotti and Mike Cafferty review new attorney registration form.

SUPREME COURT CLERK'S OFFICE REVAMPS ATTORNEY SYSTEM

A major project was initiated in 1990 to revamp the attorney registration program. It is projected that the new program will be completed by May 15, 1991, in time for the 1991-92 annual registration mailing. The new program is being designed to provide more information about the members of the Bar, such as their prior membership and status as members of the Bar in other states, a listing of their client accounts, and whether they hold insurance. This change will benefit the Court, Disciplinary Office, and the members of the Bar.

The Supreme Court in Rhode Island is responsible for the examination and certification of new members to the Bar, and it is also responsible for the re-registration of members each year.

Advisory Committtee on Women in the Courts (L-R) Susan McCalmont, General Master John J. O'Brien, Jr., Gail H. Fogarty, Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, Judge Francis J. Darigan, Jr., and Holly Hitchcock.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS EXAMINES THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF DIVORCE

The Advisory Committee on Women in the Courts is chaired by District Court Associate Judge Francis J. Darigan. The committee was reappointed in 1989 by the Chief Justice, and one of its primary charges was to conduct further study on issues of family law, including such areas as custody decisions and the economic consequences of divorce. Thus, the committee's principal focus this year has been a study on the financial outcome for Rhode Islanders involved in divorce. The study addressed several issues: rehabilitative alimony, the division of property, and the child support guidelines.

These issues were raised in a 1987 survey of the bar and judiciary which was conducted by the committee. In that survey attorneys indicated that permanent alimony was almost never awarded, even when they felt it was appropriate, based on recent rulings of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. In light of this, the committee sought to determine the current trend in spousal support orders and its impact on the economic status of divorcing parties.

Attorneys also indicated in the 1987 survey that Family Court judges tend to use a 50/50 rule-of-thumb in the division of marital property, and the committee wanted to know the effect of this trend. There was also the question of how broadly attorneys are interpreting the definition of marital assets, and whether assets, such as pension rights, are being treated uniformly as marital property.

The committee was also interested in examining the effect of the recently adopted child support guidelines.

The study involved a review of over 600 case files as well as current literature on the economic effect of divorce. A final report detailng the committee's findings and recommendations will be published in 1991.

Education seminars on domestic violence improve communication and interagency cooperation. (L-R) Dave Malone, Dept. of Elderly Affairs; Bernie Smith, Shepherd Program; Ed O'Donnell, Dept. of Children and Their Families; and Donna Nesselbush, Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE BEGINS THIRD YEAR

The Domestic Violence Task Force, established by Chief Justice Fay to study the justice system's response to incidents of domestic violence, began its third year of work in 1990. The task force is co-chaired by Family Court Associate Justice Pamela M. Macktaz and Ms. Marion Donnelly.

In 1990 the task force continued to monitor the domestic violence prevention legislation that was enacted in 1988. The intent of the 1988 legislation was to increase the courts' power to protect victims of domestic violence. This legislation clearly communicates the attitude that violent behavior, regardless of the relationship of the parties, is not tolerated by the justice system.

The task force also submitted legislation to the 1990 session of the General Assembly. This legislation was aimed at further expanding the protection provided to victims of domestic abuse and clarifying certain existing procedures. Under the legislation, protection by a restraining order issued in District Court will be extended to people who have lived together within the past three (3) years or who have shared an intimate sexual relationship within the past six (6) months. Additionally, the 1990 legislation mandates that a person convicted of a crime involving domestic violence pay for his or her own court-ordered counseling, and it also prevents a person arrested for domestic violence from being released from custody without appearing before the court or a bail commissioner. The legislation also allows Family Court judges, after proper notice and a hearing on a restraining order, to order a party to pay child support for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. This will provide a person with dependent children some financial support and allow the matter to be placed on a court calendar for a complete review of the issue of child support.

The task force also established a subcommittee to review the additional difficulties faced by elderly victims of domestic violence. The subcommittee conducted a number of round table discussions throughout the State and submitted an interim report to the task force in December 1990.

The interim report stressed the need to increase community services to the elderly through the availability of emergency shelters and respite care, and the availability of specialized substance abuse treatment options as well as multi-lingual resource guides and interpreter services. The subcommittee also highlighted the need for specialized training to assist law enforcement agencies to respond to the needs of the elderly victim of domestic violence and the implementation of an education/awareness campaign to alert professionals and the general public about the existence and scope of the problem as well as the laws and services available to prevent and protect the elderly from this abuse.

FUGITIVE TASK FORCE FORMED TO ADDRESS OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

In October 1990 Chief Justice Fay, Governor Edward D. DiPrete, and Attorney General James E. O'Neil announced the formation of a statewide fugitive task force as a coordinated effort between the Courts, the Executive Branch, the Department of the Attorney General, and state and local law enforcement agencies. The task force's objective is to reduce the number of outstanding warrants by actively pursuing individuals with warrants and by establishing procedures to reduce the number of warrants issued.

With the increase in criminal filings over the last few years, the justice system has not been able to address the issue of warrants adequately. As a result, the number of outstanding warrants has almost doubled since 1980, with the current number of outstanding warrants statewide totaling approximately 28,500.

The fugitive task force was established by statute (R.I.G.L. §12-6-7.1 and 7.2). Under the legislation the statewide warrant squad has a director, an assistant director and four staff members. The task force will be augmented by personnel on loan from the Sheriff's Office and other state and local law enforcement agencies.

In addition to establishing the task force, the legislature also created a funding mechanism to support this effort. The legislation states that a person apprehended on a warrant shall be assessed a fee of $100 in addition to any other costs incurred by the arrestee. This $100 fee is deposited in a restricted receipt account for the operation of the fugitive task force.

COURT RECEIVES AWARD TO PRESERVE HISTORICAL RECORDS

The Rhode Island Supreme Court Historical Society, chaired by Associate Justice Florence K. Murray, has taken a leading role in acting to preserve important court records of historical significance. Under the leadership of this committee, the Rhode Island Supreme Court has received a $63,462 grant from The

Records depicted present a formidable task for archivists to identify and preserve for future generations.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to begin the restoration of court records including both file papers and record books, dating from 1671 to 1900. These records constitute the most extensive and systematic body of manuscript documents available from colonial Rhode Island.

Over the centuries, these records have suffered from neglect. For example, Bristol County records have been stored in a damp vault; and as a result have suffered water damage and have been partially consumed by insects. Similarly, the Washington County papers suffered water damage in the Hurricane of 1938. While the Newport and Kent County records have been relatively free of environmental damage, they have been shuffled together over the years and have lost any semblance of order.

Under the Rhode Island Historical Court Records Project, the Rhode Island Supreme Court is remedying this problem. The recently awarded one-year grant from NHPRC has allowed the Supreme Court to hire a Project Archivist and an Assistant Archivist to identify, arrange, and catalogue the pre-1900

Stack bin storage provides easy access to court records in a climate-controlled environment at the courts' record center.

Rhode Island court records. Over 2,500 court record books, docket books, and minute books have been identified, catalogued, and arranged. In addition, all of the archival court records have been centralized and placed under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court Judicial Records Center in a room with environmental controls, a high-density mobile shelving system, fire protection, and a security system.

The arrangement and description of these records is opening an important new resource for historians, genealogists, and legal scholars. The judicial archives received over 200 inquiries from researchers in 1990, a 100% increase from the previous year. Once these records are completely arranged, a marked increase in use by historians and other researchers is anticipated.

The arrangement of the court records that will be accomplished under the provisions of this year's grant is only the first step in ensuring the preservation of these historic documents. Sound archival management requires a balance between public access and conservation of the records, and thus the conservation needs of these records must also be addressed in order to ensure that researchers can use these fragile documents without damaging them.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

RIJSS Executive Director Ed Plunkett and Operation Supervisor Peter Panciocco survey equipment that will soon be part of an expanded information system.

COURTS' COMPUTER SYSTEM TO BENEFIT FROM EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAMMING UPGRADE

With this year's installation of a WANG VS 8000 computer, the courts' automated information system has been dramatically enhanced. This super mini-computer not only supports twice as many terminals but has significantly reduced response time for data entry personnel. In addition, nightly runs are now completed in about forty minutes as opposed to almost three hours with the old system. Overall, the system is about five times faster in providing data retrieval. The new equipment has also substantially reduced computer downtime.

Another major enhancement to the courts' automated system has been the purchase of a WANG VS 5000 computer for Newport County. This has also given Newport a word processing capability for the first time.

Other equipment enhancements have been the installation of new user choice color terminals, PC's with desk top publishing and graphics capability, and hi-speed laser printers.

There have also been improvements this year to the court's software and programming. A nine-year-old attorney information program has been completely rewritten, marking the culmination of an almost two-year project. Although most attorney information is confidential, a summary file on attorneys is now available to most users. New programs were also written to track District Court's fines and costs and to implement an income tax refund offset for delinquent accounts.

CJIS IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

The past year has seen significant progress in the development of a statewide Criminal Justice Information System. The project is being overseen by an implementation committee which includes the State Auditor General, the State Court Administrator, and the Director of the Governor's Justice Commission.

This year the committee selected a consulting firm to manage the project. The firm selected is the MAXIMUS Corporation. Maximus will begin work in January 1991.

The CJIS Plan will unite six justice system agencies and two non-justice agencies, all of which have a need for similar information for the tracking of offenders. The plan calls for three major project activities:

(1) An upgrade of existing computer capabilities;

(2) The development of new systems for agencies that currently have no computerization;

(3) The connection of each agency to an automated Hub, which will be the center for intercommunication among the agencies.

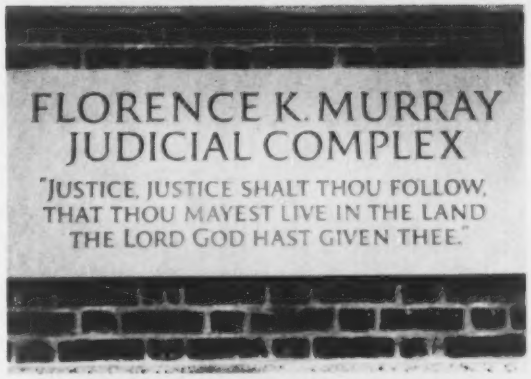
Supreme Court Associate Justice Florence K. Murray.

MURRAY JUDICIAL COMPLEX IS DEDICATED

The Newport County Courthouse, which recently underwent a 3.5 million dollar renovation, was renamed the Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex in ceremonies that took place on June 24, 1990. Dignitaries from across the country attended the dedication honoring the Supreme Court Associate Justice whose career has been marked by extraordinary success in several fields.

Justice Murray was born in Newport, Rhode Island on October 21, 1916. She is a graduate of Syracuse University and Boston University Law School and was the only female member of her class in law school.

During World War II, Justice Murray enlisted in the Womens Army Corps. She was commissioned as a second Lieutenant and served in a variety of posts. When she left


FLORENCE K. MURRAY
JUDICIAL COMPLEX
"JUSTICE, JUSTICE SHALT THOU FOLLOW,
THAT THOU MAYEST LIVE IN THE LAND
THE LORD GOD HAST GIVEN THEE."

The renamed Newport County Courthouse 6/24/90.

the corps at the end of the war, she had risen to the position of Lieutenant Colonel.

Returning to Rhode Island, she practiced law in association with her husband, Paul F. Murray, to whom she was married in 1943. They are the parents of a son, Paul M. Murray.

In 1948, Justice Murray began her distinguished political career, serving simultaneously on the Newport School Commttee and in the State Senate until 1956. During that time she was named to numerous gubernatorial and legislative committees in areas ranging from the welfare of children and youth to facilities for the elderly. She also had her first contact with the Rhode Island Judiciary, serving as a Master in the Superior Court and as Chair of the Family Court Study Committee, an assignment which led to the establishment in Rhode Island of the first family court in the United States. During this same period she was also appointed to several Presidential Commissions.

In 1956 Florence Murray was appointed to the Rhode Island Superior Court by Governor Dennis J. Roberts marking the first appointment of a woman to this court in Rhode Island. Twenty-two years later she became the first woman to be named Presiding Justice of the Superior Court, and in 1979 she was elected to her present position on the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Again, she was one of the first women to serve on a state appellate court.

Justice Murray's career has also been marked by service and leadership in the regional and national Trial Judges Association and the National Judicial College, an association culminating in seven years as Chair of the Board of Directors of the College. As one of the first jurists to recognize the need for

professional management in the judiciary, she was an early advocate of trained judicial administrators and served for nine years on the Board of the Institute for Court Management.

The recipient of numerous awards for outstanding service, including nine honorary doctorates, Justice Murray was most recently honored by the American Judicature Society with the Herbert Harley Award given for her "particularly significant contribution to strengthening the cause of justice."

The rededication of the Newport County Courthouse as the Florence Kerins Murray Judicial Complex marks the first time that a major court facility in the United States has been designated in honor of a woman jurist.

EXPANDED NEWPORT COUNTY COURTHOUSE REJOINS STATE LAW LIBRARY SYSTEM

A significant development during 1990 was the reopening of the law library in the remodeled Newport County Courthouse. Designed to house nearly 1600 linear feet of books, the Newport County Law Library is located in spacious and comfortable quarters on the third floor of the courthouse. The collection, in addition to supporting the work of the judges assigned to Newport County, is an effective working library for the members of the Newport County bar.

Another on-going project of the State Law Library staff this past year was to continue to place all Rhode Island Supreme Court (and eventually all Rhode Island Superior Court) opinions on optional disk storage. Once completed, the State Law Library and each branch library will be equipped with a disk work station providing patrons with the ability to perform a complex search of the full text of these opinions on one of twelve fields, including those organized by plaintiff, defendant, year, judge, topic, majority and dissenting opinions, and case summaries. This technology will provide the library patrons with an extremely rapid and cost-effective way to locate relevant Rhode Island court cases without having to incur significant on-line charges as with Westlaw and Lexis.

This year, the State Law Library also

Library staff preview one of many law related videos now available from the state law library. (L-R) Sondra Giles, Colleen Hanna, Chief Law Librarian Kendall Svengalis and Karen Quinn.

acquired 2,387 volumes in hard copy and an additional 560 volumes in microfiche, bringing the total collection to nearly 110,000 volumes. The library was also the recipient of a generous gift from Providence Attorney Harold Winsten, who donated his entire personal law library to the State, including complete sets of the Atlantic Reporter 2d and United States Code Annotated.

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS DELAY COURT FACILITIES UPGRADE

The continuation of the rehabilitation of the Licht Judicial Complex and the refitting of the former Fogarty Federal Building for court use were put on hold this past year because of budgetary limitations. The time, however, was used to complete a more comprehensive analysis of the most effective utilization of the Fogarty Building and to improve and refine the plans for Phase III renovations of the Licht Complex.

The renovation and expansion of the Newport County Courthouse was completed

Scheduled replacement of original equipment by more functional self-service elevators has been delayed for economic reasons.

in March of 1990, and the building was renamed the Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex in a June dedication. Improvements were made to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems as well as to the electrical system. Energy-efficient lighting and windows were installed, and a modern security system was added to the building. The building expansion provided new space for offices for the attorney general, public defender, and stenographers. The addition of a third floor to the building also allowed for an expansion of the library, a larger jury lounge, and a larger Grand Jury hearing room.

A study of the Kent County Courthouse was also initiated this year to examine whether it would be more cost effective to relocate, replace, or substantially upgrade this facility.

A court-produced coloring book aids in promoting a better understanding of our justice system by Rhode Island youngsters.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE PROMOTES VIDEOS, PUBLICATIONS

The Office of Public Information made major strides this year in its efforts to inform diverse segments of the Rhode Island public about the accomplishments and the concerns of the Rhode Island Judiciary.

In commemoration of Rhode Island's ratification of the Constitution, a grant-funded educational video was produced entitled "1790 — A Reenactment." The video featured local attorneys dressed in period costume recalling the heated arguments preceding Rhode Island's ratification vote. To maximize viewership, the office promoted this video and several other video productions to schools and organizations and made them available at no charge through a Video Loan Library.

Also included in the promotion was the award-winning television series JUSTICE FOR ALL. Tapes of the five programs that make up the entire series are now being used by high schools, colleges, women's shelters, and community organizations statewide. The series was cited by the American Bar Association for "making an outstanding contribution to public understanding of the system of law and justice in America" and several state court systems are using the series as a model public relations program.

This year the court received a $108,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to continue developing educational videos. The funds will be used to produce a new series of prime time television programs on the Rhode Island Judiciary entitled, "Courtwatch". The series will focus on current court concerns, such as domestic violence and the "war" on drugs.

In addition to television broadcasts, the office published a number of print materials, including the Chief Justice's Annual State of the Court Address. These are distributed at all state courthouses and circulated to judicial systems nationally.

Working in cooperation with the Court Education Office, a popular, early-education booklet entitled, "The Courts Belong to All of Us" was also published this year. Rhode Island elementary school teachers are utilizing the popular coloring book to introduce the state's youngest citizens to basic concepts of law, justice, and the role of the courts.

In an effort to inform state business leaders about court accomplishments and concerns, the Office of Public Information formed a joint venture with the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce to develop a "Bench/ Business Colloquium on the Courts." One hundred business leaders from across the state attended, and because the program was so well received, plans are underway to make the colloquium an annual event.

Court Education Director Holly Hitchcock establishes duties and roles during a mock trial.

COURT'S PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS CONTINUES TO GROW

During 1990, school outreach programs were expanded to increase courtroom visitation, classroom speaking engagements, and teacher training workshops.

A program for elementary age children was also initiated this year. The program was held in an unoccupied courtroom. After a question and answer session on the role of the court and the various occupations assisting the judicial process, the children were given the opportunity to role play the parts of judge, juror, stenographer, attorney, witness, clerk, and sheriff. The objective was to bring to life the teaching of democracy in an exciting and memorable way.

All participants received "The Courts Belong to All of Us," a coloring workbook on the Rhode Island courts. Overall, 2,500 copies of the workbook have been distributed to classrooms around the state.

In addition to the early childhood program, the Education Office ran an educational enrichment program called "Court Explorers" for fifty-two high school students from twelve communities interested in law as a career.

The Summer Teachers' Institute was repeated this year. The institute was co-sponsored by the courts and the Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership. As a result of the program seventy-five teachers were trained in topics including "Due Process and the Courts," "Federalism vs. Anti-federalism," and "Educational Methods and Materials for Law Related Education."

Throughout the 1990 school year over 200 teachers served 15,000 students across Rhode Island via court-sponsored, law-related education activities.

Thoroughly enjoying the courtroom drama is a typical grade school class during a visit that is part of a strongly-encouraged program by the Judiciary.

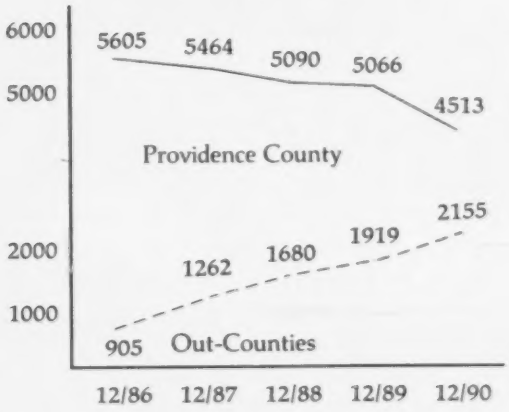
SUPERIOR COURT

Presiding Justice
Anthony A. Giannini

William McAtee, Esq.
Administrator

The high point in 1990 for the Superior Court has been a reduction in the cases pending on the civil trial calendar in Providence County. This year there were 1,800 cases added to the calendar and 2,306 disposed, resulting in a reduction in the pending caseload of 506 cases. As of December 31, the number was 4,513, which is the lowest it has been during the five-year period. The trial calendar caseload reached a high of 5,595 at the end of 1986, and it has dropped since then by 1,082 cases or 19.3%, with half of the reduction occurring this year.

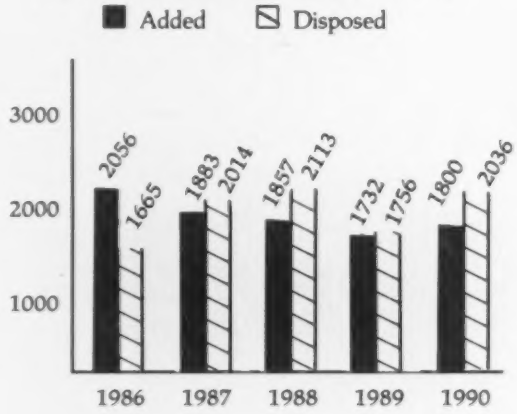
CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR
PENDING CASELOAD



The new arbitration program has been an important factor in these results. Approximately a third of the cases disposed on the calendar (717 out of 2,306) were handled by arbitration. In addition, the arbitration program reported disposing of another 265 cases, which are not yet reflected in the trial calendar statistics because attorneys have not filed judgments. Overall, the arbitration program reported dispositions for the year totaling 1,316.

Courtwide civil filings total 11,470, which is a 13% increase over 1989, and for the five-year period civil filings have gone up a total of 45.8%. The greatest percentage rise has been in Providence County, where filings have climbed 53% since 1986. Last year alone filings in this county went up 20.8%; there were 7,090 cases filed in 1989 and 8,564 in 1990.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR CASEFLOW



However, this trend in filings has not directly affected the flow of cases on the civil trial calendar. Despite higher filings in Providence County, the number of cases added to the trial calendar has remained fairly constant; there were 2,056 cases added in 1986, and this year there were 1,800, a difference of 256 cases.

Like Providence, the number of cases added to the trial calendar in Newport County has declined slightly compared to 1986, despite a 22.2% increase in filings. From 1986 through 1989 the number added to the trial calendar varied between 134 and 171, and in 1990 the number added dropped to 117. In contrast, civil filings in Newport rose from 509 to 622 over the same five-year period.

On the other hand, the cases added to the trial calendar in both Kent and Washington Counties have increased at a higher rate than filings. In Kent County civil filings have risen by 25.6% since 1986 — case filings went up

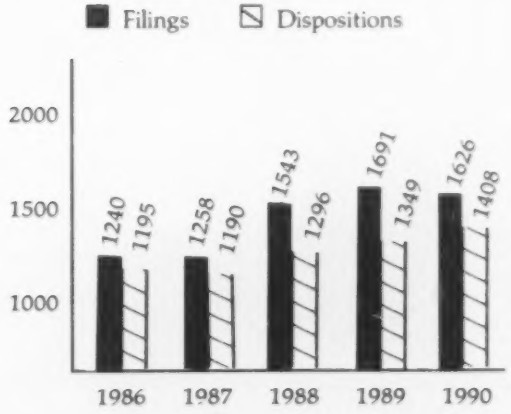
from 1,154 to 1,450 — while the cases added to the trial calendar rose by 67.6% — from 370 added in 1986 to 620 added in 1990. Likewise, civil filings in Washington County have shown a 38.8% increase over the five-year period — filings have risen from 601 to 834 — while trial calendar cases have gone up 47.8% — from 178 cases added to 263.

In contrast to Providence, the other counties have all seen steady increases in the cases pending trial on the civil calendar. In Washington and Newport Counties the number pending trial has nearly doubled over the past five years; in Washington County the civil trial caseload has risen from 288 to 582, an increase of 102%; and in Newport County it has gone up from 199 to 381, a 91.5% jump. At the same time the caseload in Kent County has tripled, from 394 cases pending to 1,192.

This past year the civil caseload in Kent County increased by 178, with 442 cases disposed and 620 added. It rose by 86 in Washington County, where dispositions totaled 177 and the number added was 263. In Newport County the caseload increased by 27, with 90 cases disposed and 117 added.

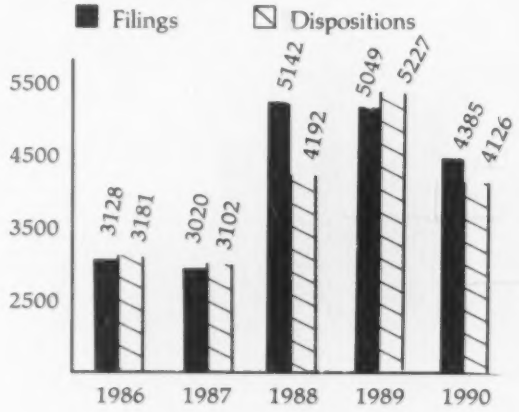
On the criminal side, felony filings totaled 6,011 courtwide, which is a 10.8% drop from a year ago. This is due to a significant decline in filings this year in both Providence and Newport Counties. In Providence the number filed decreased by 664 cases, or 13.2%, compared to 1989, and in Newport County filings fell by 140 cases, or 45.6%. The total filed in Providence for the year was 4,385, and in Newport it was 307.

OUT-COUNTIES
FELONY CASEFLOW



In contrast, felony filings in Washington County were unchanged from 1989 — in 1989 there were 487 felonies filed, and this year there were 480 — while in Kent County filings increased by 82 cases (10.8%). Filings for 1990 totaled 839 in Kent, which marks a five-year high.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
FELONY CASEFLOW



On the other hand, misdemeanor appeals were lower across the board. The number filed courtwide was 660 (493 in Providence, 89 in Kent, 37 in Washington, and 41 in Newport), as compared to the previous four years where the number of misdemeanor appeals ranged from 866 to 1,178.

Disposition results for felonies varied county to county. In Newport County the number disposed was almost on a par with filings (307 cases filed and 306 disposed), and dispositions were 42.3% higher than they were in 1989.

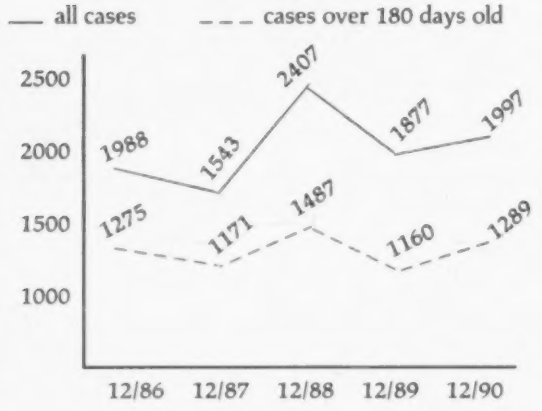
On the other hand, in Kent and Washington Counties felony dispositions were just slightly lower than in 1989, and for both counties the disposition rate for the year was approximately 83.5%. In Washington County there were 401 cases disposed compared to 480 filed, and in Kent County there were 701 cases disposed compared to 839 filed.

Providence County showed a much higher disposition rate — 94.2% — but the number disposed was over 20% lower than in 1989. The number disposed dropped from 5,227 to

4,126, a difference of 1,101 cases.

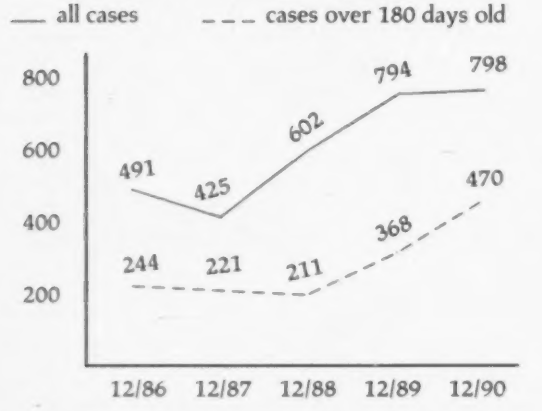
Because dispositions exceeded filings, Newport County's felony caseload was reduced from 325 to 265, and the cases pending over 180 days were also reduced from 194 to 179, although the older cases were still 67.5% of the total.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
PENDING FELONY CASELOAD



In contrast, the felony caseloads increased in the other counties this year. Providence had the smallest percentage increase (6.4%) — the number pending rose from 1,877 to 1,977, and the cases over 180 days old went up from 1,160 (61.8% of the total) to 1,289 (64.5% of the total).

OUT-COUNTIES
PENDING FELONY CASELOAD



In Kent County the pending caseload rose by 15.6%, from 225 to 260, and the number over 180 days old jumped from 69 to 128 (an 85.5% increase). Nevertheless, Kent continues to be the most current of the counties in felony case processing, with 49.2% of the cases pending more than 180 days and a median time to disposition of under 60 days.

The felony caseload in Washington County also showed an increase — the number pending went from 244 up to 273, and the cases over 180 days old went up from 105 (43% of the total) to 163 (59.7% of the total).

SUPERIOR COURT'S PROGRAM TO AUTOMATE CASE TRACKING AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS COMPLETED

A program to automate the criminal, civil, and accounting systems of the Superior Court was finally concluded in 1990 with the expansion of the civil system to Newport County. Automation of the court was initiated in the 1970's with a criminal case tracking system (PROMIS), and full automation has taken almost fifteen years to complete.

A team headed by the principal supervisory clerk effected the final phase in the changeover by entering approximately 600 Newport County civil cases into the automated system, a task requiring almost two and a half weeks. With the backloading of pending cases completed, the Newport County Clerk's Office began entering all new cases into the system. As a result, Newport County has an accurate listing of the civil cases pending trial, and statistics, which were formerly done manually, are now produced automatically.

The year also marked the conversion of all of the court registries from a manual to a computerized accounting system. The Registry Offices are responsible for the handling of all court fines and costs, and this new system allows quick access to information on outstanding fines and costs. It also automatically allocates revenue to the various accounts which have been mandated by statute.

Personnel ensuring that the arbitration program is kept up to speed: Cathy Ryan (seated), Jean McArthur and Assistant Administrator Austin Tague.

COURT ANNEXED ARBITRATION A SUCCESS IN FIRST FULL YEAR

Superior Court's court-annexed arbitration program completed its first full year of operation in 1990. During the year, the program disposed of 1,315 civil cases, while operating only in Providence County.

The objective of the arbitration program is to divert less complicated civil cases from the court process and allow Superior Court judges to dedicate more time to complicated civil and criminal cases requiring judicial intervention. In addition, arbitration is a less expensive alternative for the litigant and taxpayers.

According to the legislation authorizing the program, arbitration is mandatory for all cases in which the claim for monetary relief is under $50,000. Exceptions for certain cases are set forth in the rules. Arbitration is non-binding, and the parties may appeal the arbitrator's award. Appeals require a $200 filing fee, and, if the trial verdict is more favorable to the party who rejected the award, the filing fee is reimbursed.

The program uses trained attorney arbitrators to hear cases and determine awards. Attorneys who serve as arbitrators must have ten or more years membership in the Rhode Island Bar and must complete an arbitrator's orientation program. Attorneys with less than ten years membership may also serve as arbitrators with the approval of the Presiding Justice of the Superior Court.

The program is administered by the Arbitration Unit, which is housed in the Garrahy Judicial Complex. The unit is responsible for maintaining a list of arbitrators, managing the cases, providing statistical reports, and carrying out other duties necessary to support the program.

Due to the program's success in Providence County, the court will expand the effort to the other counties in 1991.

REORGANIZATION PLAN IMPLEMENTED

A plan to reorganize the Providence County Clerk's Office was fully implemented in 1990. Under the plan three new supervisory clerk positions were created to oversee administrative services, court services, and systems and training. The purpose of the reorganization was to give greater emphasis to quality control, allocation of resources, work flow, and training of personnel. Although the new positions report to the Providence County clerk, they are available to provide assistance to all county clerk offices on special assignment by the chief supervisory clerk.

General Chief Clerk Michael Ahn (L) meets with new supervisory clerks representing the clerk's office reorganization: Tom Luongo, Lucille Sasso and Mike Kelleher.

JUSTICES GOLDBERG, HURST ASSUME DUTIES; NEWLY APPOINTED TO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH

Associate Justice Maureen McK. Goldberg.

Maureen McKenna Goldberg was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court by Governor DiPrete on July 9, 1990.

Judge Goldberg graduated with honors in 1973 from Providence College and received her law degree with honors from Suffolk University Law School in 1978.

Judge Goldberg was an Assistant Attorney General from 1979 to 1985 and Administrator of the Criminal Division. She served as Town Solicitor for the Town of South Kingstown from 1985 to 1987 and Town Solicitor for the Town of Westerly from 1987 to her appointment to the bench. She also served as Special Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island State Police and was the Acting Town Manager for the Town of Westerly.

Judge Goldberg is a delegate to the Rhode Island Bar Association, a former Member of the Criminal Law Bench Bar Committee, and a member of the Committee to Develop the Rules of Evidence.

Associate Justice Patricia A. Hurst.

The appointment of Patricia A. Hurst as the twenty-second Superior Court justice on July 18, 1990 brought the bench to the full complement provided by statute. The newest member is a native of Canandaigua, New York, attended public schools there, and graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

After graduation from college, Justice Hurst relocated to Rhode Island and, while working as a paralegal in a major Providence law firm, attended evening law school. After receiving her law degree from Suffolk University in 1978, she became a member of the Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Federal Bars, and was a sole practioner prior to selection to the bench. Justice Hurst served as chair of the Providence Zoning Board of Review for three years.

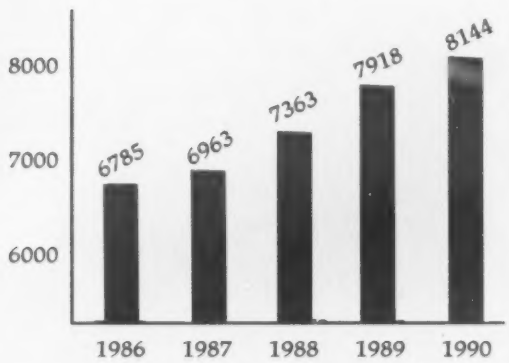
FAMILY COURT

Chief Judge
Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.

Earl J. Croft, Jr.
Administrator

Overall Family Court filings have risen by only a small margin compared to last year. Courtwide filings for 1990 totaled 16,307, which was just a 2% increase over the number filed in 1989 (15,957). However, over the five-year period the change has been more dramatic. Since 1986 there has been an increase in filings of almost 20% (19.6%).

JUVENILE FILINGS



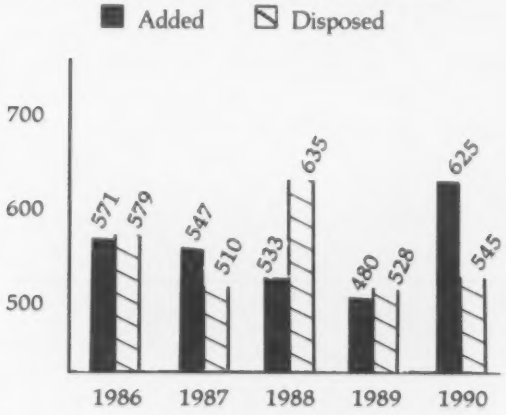
A look at the various categories shows the emergence of certain trends. For example, divorce petitions have remained fairly constant over the past five years, although there was a slight bubble in filings (5,217) in 1988. In 1986, there were 4,962 divorce petitions filed, and in 1990 the number was just slightly lower, 4,900.

On the other hand, although domestic abuse complaints increased 15% to 16% each year between 1987 and 1989, the rate of growth dropped suddenly this year to 5.3%. Overall abuse complaints have jumped by 64.5% since 1986, from 1,985 to 3,263 cases filed.

Juvenile petitions have also gone up since 1986, but at a slower rate of between 3% to 8% a year, and over five years filings in this category have gone up a total of 20% — from 6,785 to 8,144. However, there is one subcategory of juvenile cases, dependency/neglect/abuse, which has shown a dramatic change since 1986. Dependency/neglect/abuse cases have grown from 9.8% of juvenile filings to 15.7%. At the same time their number has nearly doubled from 666 cases to 1,283.

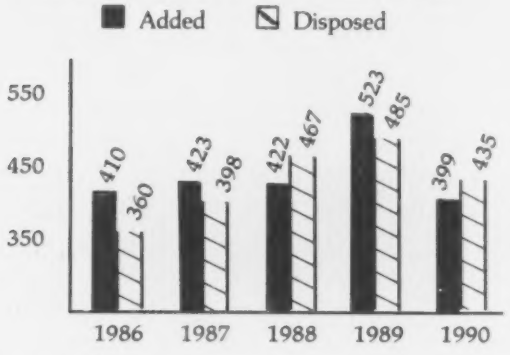
The impact of these trends on the contested divorce and juvenile trial calendars has been as follows. On the domestic side, Providence/Bristol has shown a different trend than the other counties in cases added to the contested calendar.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR
CASES ADDED VS. CASES DISPOSED



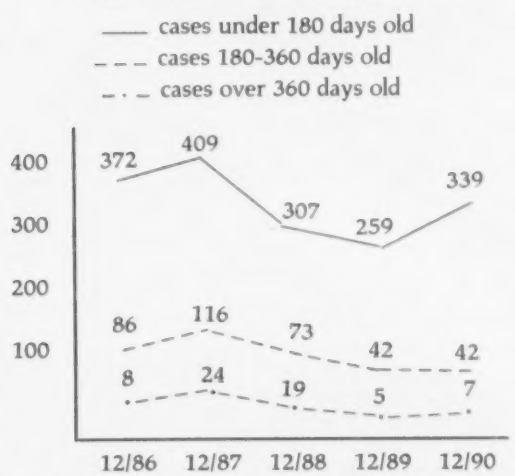
In Providence County the cases added to the contested calendar dropped slightly each year between 1986 and 1989, and then suddenly, in 1990, the number increased by almost 30%. Between 1986 and 1989 the number added fell from 571 to 480, and then jumped this year to 625.

OUT-COUNTIES
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR
CASES ADDED VS. CASES DISPOSED



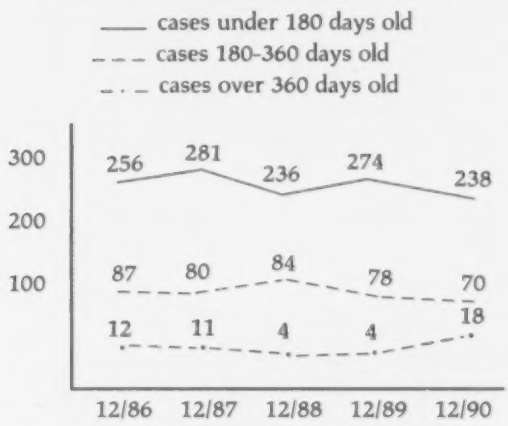
In all three out-counties there was a bubble in the cases added to the contested calendar in 1989, but this year the number has dropped back to its previous level. For example, in Kent County added cases went up from 212 to 268 between 1988 and 1989 and then fell again to 211 in 1990. Likewise, in Washington County the number added went from 132 up to 165 and then down again to 139 over the same period. Newport County also shared this experience, but with one difference: the number added in 1990 (49) was more than a third below what it was in 1988 (78).

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
PENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD



Disposition results on the contested calendar have varied county to county. In Newport County the court disposed of more cases than were added to the contested calendar both this year and last year and has reduced the pending caseload from 42 to 25 cases, with only one case pending that is over 180 days old. In 1989 there were 90 cases added and 104 disposed, and in 1990 there were 49 cases added and 52 disposed.

OUT-COUNTIES
PENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD



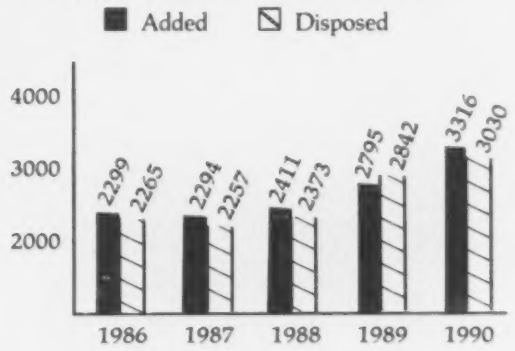
In Kent County dispositions increased on the contested calendar this year and exceeded the number added by 42 (211 were added and 253 disposed). This reduced the pending caseload from 148 to 106, and the cases over 180 days old were also reduced from 36 to 20. However, the number over a year old rose from one to six.

Dispositions were also higher this year in Providence County but did not keep pace with the increase in the number added (dispositions rose from 528 to 545, but the number added totaled 625). As a result, the number of pending cases went up from 259 to 339; however, there was no increase in the cases over 180 days old (42), and the number over 360 days old only went up by two (from five to seven).

In Washington County dispositions dropped from last year's level and also fell below the number added (139 cases were added and 130 were disposed). Because of this there was an

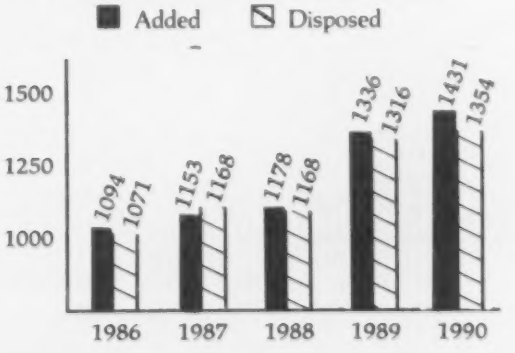
increase in the pending caseload (it rose from 98 to 107). Approximately 46% of the caseload (49 cases) was over 180 days old, and Washington County had the highest number pending more than a year (12 cases).

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR
CASES ADDED VS. CASES DISPOSED



On the juvenile side all four counties experienced an increase in cases added to the trial calendar starting in 1988 and continuing through 1990. Thus, in Providence County the number of juvenile cases in the trial pool rose by 37.5% between 1988 and 1990, from 2,411 cases added to 3,316. The number went up from 619 to 729 in Kent County (an increase of 17.7%). In Washington County it rose from 247 to 324 (a jump of 31.2%), and in Newport County it went up from 312 to 378 (an increase of 21.2%).

OUT-COUNTIES
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR
CASES ADDED VS. CASES DISPOSED



Of particular note has been the rise over the past two years in dependency/neglect/abuse cases on the trial calendars in all four counties. The number added has more than doubled since 1988 in Providence, Kent, and Washington Counties — it has jumped from 549 to 1,249 in Providence, from 44 to 118 in Kent, and from 20 to 58 in Washington County — and in Newport County the cases in this category have gone up 90% from 41 to 78.

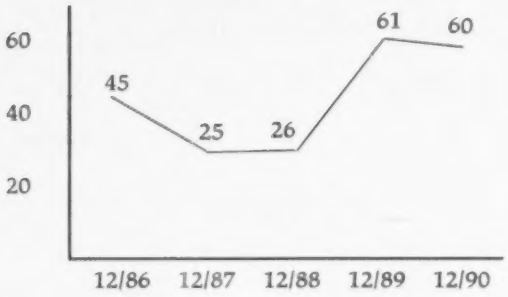
On the juvenile side all of the counties have increased the number of cases disposed compared to last year, but dispositions have not kept up with the higher rate of cases added to the calendar. In Providence dispositions on the trial calendar have risen by 6.6% since last year, but the number disposed (3,030) fell short of the number added (3,316) by 286 cases. The same occurred in Washington County where dispositions have gone up 7.6% from a year ago but still were less than the number added (324 were added and 310 were disposed). In Kent and Newport Counties dispositions rose by a smaller percent (1.9% in Kent and .1% in Newport) compared to 1989 but also fell below the number added. There were 729 cases added and 695 disposed in Kent County, and in Newport there were 378 cases added and 349 disposed.

The effect of this has been an increase courtwide in the pending juvenile caseload. Kent and Washington Counties have had the smallest percentage increase. In Kent County the juvenile caseload has risen by 35% since last year (from 96 to 130 cases), and in Washington County it has gone up 29% (from 49 to 63 cases). The juvenile caseload in Providence and Newport Counties has grown at a much greater rate. In Providence County the number pending has gone up 87% compared to a year ago, from 329 to 615 cases, and in Newport County there has been a 71% increase, from 41 to 70 pending cases.

However, the impact on the age of the caseload has varied county by county. In both Kent and Washington Counties there has been an increase in the number of dependency/neglect/abuse cases over 90 days old, but at the same time the number of wayward/delinquent cases pending over 90 days has been reduced. As of the end of December,

Kent had 24 wayward/delinquent cases and 16 dependency/neglect/abuse cases pending over 90 days, and Washington County had 13 wayward/delinquent and 12 dependency/neglect/abuse cases in this age category.

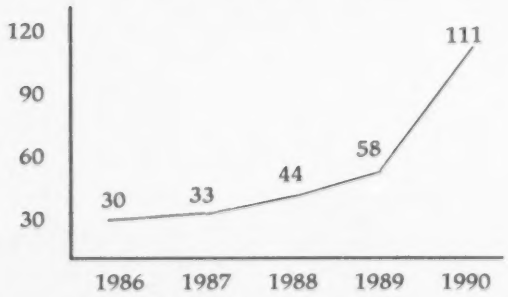
OUT-COUNTIES
WAYWARD DELINQUENT CASES
OVER 90 DAYS OLD



There has been an increase across the board in cases pending over 90 days in Providence County. Here the number of wayward/delinquent cases over 90 days old has nearly doubled since last year (the number has risen from 58 to 111), and the dependency/neglect/abuse cases in this category have gone up 500% (from 48 to 246).

However, in Newport County, while the wayward/delinquent cases pending over 90 days have increased from 13 to 23, the dependency/neglect/abuse cases in this age category have been reduced by one from five to four.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY
WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES
OVER 90 DAYS OLD



An easing of court demands is a side benefit to a successful ADR program. Pictured is Family Court Judge Paul A. Suttell with courtroom staff (L-R) Susan Ryan, Joe Montecalvo and Pete Viscera.

COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY USE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN FAMILY COURT

In September Chief Justice Fay asked retired Family Court Chief Judge Edward P. Gallogly to chair a committee to study the use of alternative dispute resolution in the Family Court. In his charge to the committee, the Chief Justice cited the burden placed on Family Court judges and staff due to the increase in the number of case filings in many areas. Chief Justice Fay asked the committee to review all forms of alternate dispute resolution which might be effective in the Family Court.

In an effort to receive input from the Family Court judges and the attorneys who practice before the court, the committee met with the judges and the members of the Family Court Bench/Bar Committee. The committee is also developing a questionnaire to be sent to the judges and Family Court attorneys to obtain a broad based perspective on the best applications of alternative dispute resolution. The committee will develop the questionnaire with the assistance of members of the bench/bar committee.

The committee plans to distribute the questionnaire in early 1991. The results of the questionnaire and the committee's recommendations will be included in a final report that the committee plans to present to Chief Justice Fay in the summer of 1991.

Barbara Rogers, Chief Counselor and Bill Greene, Supervisory Alcoholism Counselor, discuss a case requiring Family Services response.

COURT RELIES ON FAMILY SERVICES ACTIVITIES

The Family Services Department provides the court with a wide range of services to assist individuals and families in dealing with various issues. In addition to family and alcohol counseling, this department provides investigations for child support, child custody, and other matters. The department also provides mediation services to assist parties in resolving child custody and/or child visitation issues, supervises court-ordered child visitations in certain cases, and administers court-ordered drug tests.

The department completed 1,007 investigations in 1990. This is 125 more investigations than were completed in 1989. The two major categories of investigations completed were 505 support investigations and 332 child custody and/or visitation investigations.

The alcohol and family counselors averaged a caseload of 284 cases per month. In addition, the alcohol counselors also administered an average of 13 court-ordered drug tests per week.

The department handled twenty-two (22) court-orderd mediation cases. Mediation provides parties involved in a domestic relations matter with a non-adversarial setting in which to resolve custody and/or visitation issues. The mediation sessions focus on the positive reorganization of the family and the appropriate involvement of both parents in the lives of their children.

The department also supervised 269 hours of court-ordered visitation. Under the guidance of the department's staff, volunteers are used to supervise parental visits at the courthouse and prepare the necessary reports.

JUVENILE SERVICES AWARDED GRANT

In November 1990, the Juvenile Services Department was informed that it was awarded a $3,000 grant by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a law-related education program to keep first-time juvenile offenders from becoming further involved in the juvenile justice system. The department's proposal was one of sixteen (16) selected to serve as a nationwide pilot project.

Juvenile Service staff (L-R) Dave Heden, Bob Tomasso, Bob Buote and Denise Dupre react to news of grant award.

The program will be implemented in 1991 with three, six-week sessions serving ten to fifteen juveniles. The six week sessions will focus on assisting the participants in understanding their rights and responsibilities under our legal system, as well as the consequences of subsequent illegal activity. The department will receive technical assistance in implementing the program from the Ocean State Center for Law and Citizen Education and the Rhode Island Legal Education Partnership.

The Juvenile Services Department is responsible for screening all wayward and delinquent petitions (except emergencies) filed with the court. Based on case screening criteria, the staff interview certain youths and their parents in an effort to dispose of cases without a formal court appearance. In

handling these matters the staff may establish restitution agreements and make referrals to counseling agencies and other community service agencies.

The Youth Diversionary Unit within this department serves as a community outreach unit. The field workers generally handle matters involving youth referred to court for running away from home, disobeying parental rules, not attending school, or other difficulties requiring on-going supervision.

In 1990 the Juvenile Services Department screened 4,083 wayward and delinquent petitions. Approximately 40% of these petitions (1,772) were handled without a court hearing.

NEW JUSTICES APPOINTED TO FAMILY COURT

Associate Justice Paul A. Suttell.

On July 9, 1990, Paul A. Suttell was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Family Court. Judge Suttell is a 1971 graduate of Northwestern University and received his law degree in 1976 from Suffolk University.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Suttell practiced law for thirteen years with Beals & Define Law Offices. From 1979 to 1982 Judge Suttell also served as legal counsel to the minority leader in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, and in 1982 he was elected State Representative. He held that position until his appointment to the bench.

Associate Justice Peter Palombo, Jr.

Peter Palombo, Jr. was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Family Court on July 11, 1990. Judge Palombo had practiced law for 36 years. During that time, he served as solicitor for the City of Cranston from 1965 to 1977, and in 1986 he was appointed chief counsel to Governor Edward D. DiPrete. He held that position until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Palombo is a graduate of Harvard College, and he received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1954.

District Court

Chief Judge
Albert E. DeRobbio

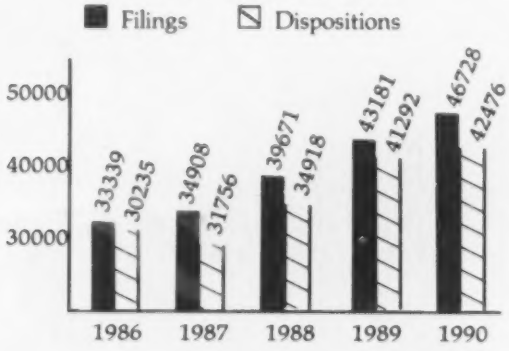
Administrator
Joseph P. Ippolito, Esq.

The District Court workload continued to expand in 1990, but at a slightly lower rate than in the past several years. Filings courtwide totaled 98,555 this year, which was a 5.4% increase over 1989 (93,514). For the five year period filings have gone up 28.6%.

The increase in filings this year affected three out of the four major case categories, with felony charges showing the smallest percentage growth. There were 10,401 felony charges filed this year, which was only 2.2% more than were filed in 1989 (10,181).

Regular civil filings were another category with higher filings compared to a year ago. The number filed in 1989 was 20,772, and this year's total was 22,320, an increase of 7.5%. Although civil filings declined between 1986 and 1988, they have gone up in both 1989 and 1990.

MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS
FILINGS VS. DISPOSITIONS



The category which has shown the greatest increase has been misdemeanors. Compared to last year, misdemeanor filings have risen 8.2% — from 43,181 charges filed to 46,728. The misdemeanor workload has gone up steadily each year since 1986, and over the five-year period has risen by 40%.

However, the rate of growth for misdemeanors has varied widely among the divisions. Those with the smallest increases have been the fifth division (20.5%), the combined sixth and eighth divisions (24.8%), and the fourth division (24.9%); while those experiencing the greatest growth have been the first division (80%) and the third (69%).

MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS
FILINGS BY DIVISION

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
1st	1220	1340	1687	1813	2196
2nd	3690	3903	4527	4888	5588
3rd	6164	6746	8101	9355	10417
4th	4840	5322	5923	7280	6049
5th	3789	3737	4341	4270	4566
6/8th	10832	11047	12039	11777	13523
7th	2804	2813	3053	3798	4399

The combined sixth and eighth divisions had the largest misdemeanor caseload with 13,523 misdemeanor charges filed in 1990, and the third division ran a close second with 10,417 charges filed for the year.

As a point of interest, when the first, fifth and seventh divisions join with the sixth and eighth, this single division will have over 50% of the misdemeanor caseload and over 70% of the civil and felony caseload.

Small claims is the only major category which has had lower filings this year. Small claims rose steadily between 1986 and 1989 and over the four-year period increased 44.6% from 12,654 cases filed to 18,299. However, this trend was reversed in 1990, and small claims dropped this year to 17,993, a difference of 306 cases of 1.7%.

The two other categories of cases handled by the District Court are agency appeals and domestic abuse complaints. Agency appeals also decreased in 1990 — there were 442 filed last year and 400 this year — while domestic abuse complaints continued to rise — there were 713 filed in 1990, an 11.6% increase over 1989 and a 33.8% increase since 1987. 1987 was the first full year after legislation passed giving jurisdiction for certain abuse complaints to the District Court.

Dispositions on the criminal side have shown a slight increase over the number disposed in 1989, but they have not kept up with filings. The number disposed rose from 41,292 in 1989 to 42,476 in 1990; but with an 8.2% rise in misdemeanor filings this year, the disposition rate dropped from 96.6% to

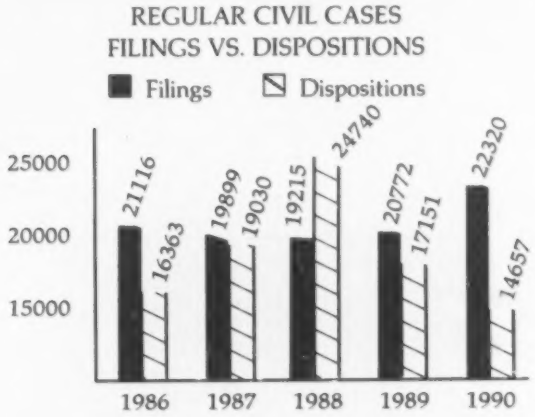
90.9%

Curiously, the divisions with the highest disposition rate were those that report their statistics manually. The second division disposed of 98% of the misdemeanors filed (5,492 out of 5,578), the third division disposed of 90.3% (9,406 out of 10,406), the fourth division disposed of 99% (5,991 out of 6,049) and the seventh division disposed of 96% (4,225 out of 4,339).

On the other hand, the three divisions which are computerized (the first, fifth, and sixth) showed disposition rates of between 81.5% and 97.3%, suggesting the possibility that dispositions are not being entered into the computer in all cases.

For the divisions that report manually (the second, third, fourth, and seventh divisions), the total number of active misdemeanors pending at the end of the year was 1,662. Of this number, 200 charges, or 12%, were pending over 60 days. There was only one charge (in the fourth division) that was reported as pending over 180 days.

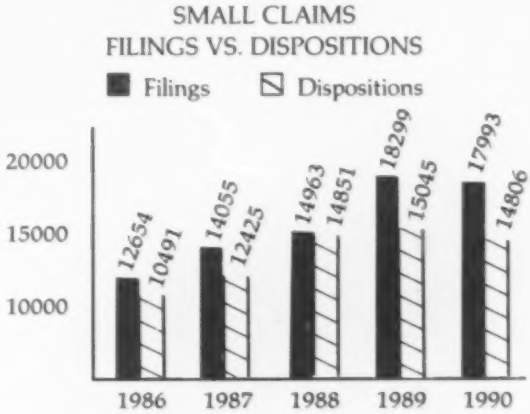
The computerized divisions showed a total of 1,799 active misdemeanors, with 935 cases or 52% over 60 days — again suggesting that dispositions may not be entered in all cases.



Another look at misdemeanor dispositions in those divisions that are computerized shows that last year in the sixth division 98.6% of the cases were disposed in less than 60 days, in the first division 97.9% were disposed in this time frame, and in the fifth division, 92.9%.

On the civil side, the number of regular civil dispositions was lower than a year ago — there were 16,978 cases disposed in 1989 as compared to 14,657 in 1990 — and the disposition rate dropped from 81.7% to 65.7%.

Disposition results varied widely among the divisions: the first and third divisions showed a disposition rate of 99.7% to over 100% — in the first division there were 415 cases filed and 414 disposed, and in the third there were 3,054 cases filed and 3,423 disposed. The fourth division had a disposition rate of 80% — 1,700 filings and 1,373 dispositions — while the other four divisions disposed of civil filings at a rate of between 55% and 58.5%. The second division disposed of 893 civil cases, 58.5% of the number filed (1,526). In the fifth division dispositions totaled 1,489, 57% of filings (2,592). The number disposed in the sixth division was 6,586, 56.5% of filings (11,664). The seventh division disposed of 761 cases, 55% of the number filed (1,369).



On the other hand, the disposition rate for small claims was the same this year as it was in 1990 — 82.2% — despite a small drop in the number disposed — there were 15,401 small claims disposed in 1989 and 14,806 disposed this year. Again, as with the regular civil cases, the result differed greatly among the divisions. The second, third, and seventh divisions disposed of small claims this year at the rate of 100% or higher, and the fourth and first division had disposition rates of 90% and 91.6% — there were 1,996 small claims filed and 2,207 disposed in the fourth division, and 934 filed compared to 856 disposed in the first division. However, the disposition rate in the fifth division was 54.7% (1,024 disposed out of 1,872 filed), and in the sixth division it was 41.8% (3,034 disposed out of 7,255 filed).

COURT SYSTEM AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO IMPROVE DATA ENTRY

The court system was awarded an $83,770 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance under the Drug Control and Systems Improvement Formula Grant Program. This is the first year the courts have received funds under this program.

States receive awards based on a block grant formula, and in 1990 Rhode Island's share was $2,345,000. Approximately 45% of this award was mandated for local cities and towns. In addition to the courts, other State agencies receiving funds under this program were the State Police, the Department of Corrections, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Department of Health.

The funds are being used by the courts to support four staff positions in the District Court. The staff are assigned to the Sixth Division to assist in entering and updating information on felony cases and to perform other tasks required for more efficient case processing. The timely entry of data on felony cases enables the courts, the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Corrections, the Department of the Public Defender, and law enforcement agencies to manage and track cases more effectively.

The grant will also allow the courts to purchase facsimile (FAX) machines. The machines will be placed in clerk's offices in each of the court buildings and the Judicial Records Center. The FAX machines will provide the courts with the ability to transmit necessary court documents between the various counties and divisions of the court.

EIGHTH DIVISION IS BROUGHT TO PROVIDENCE

In March 1990 the Eighth Division of the District Court, which included Cranston, North Providence, Johnston, Scituate, and Foster, was combined with the Sixth Division and relocated to the Garrahy Judicial Complex in Providence. The Sixth Division includes the cities of Providence and East Providence. The purpose for combining the two divisions was to use judicial and support staff more efficiently.

The Eighth Division was housed in Cranston City Hall, and it was initially the need to find another facility for this division which led to the consideration of consolidating the two divisions. The City of Cranston indicated that it would no longer be able to make space available in the City Hall for the court, and a side benefit has been a more efficient use of available court personnel. The merger of the Eighth and Sixth divisions has not affected the services provided to the cities and towns involved.

Future plans are to construct a courthouse in Cranston within the next few years and upon completion, to reestablish a District Court division in that city.

Associate Judge Stephen P. Erickson.

STEPHEN P. ERICKSON NAMED TO DISTRICT COURT BENCH

On July 18, 1990, Attorney Stephen P. Erickson was sworn in by Governor Edward D. DiPrete as an associate judge of the District Court. Judge Erickson filled the vacancy left by the death of Judge William T. Henry.

A native of Newport, Judge Erickson graduated from Middletown High School, the University of Rhode Island (magnum cum laude 1973), and Boston University Law School.

He was a delegate to the 1972 Republican National Convention and was elected state representative in 1978. He served as minority whip in 1982. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was Adjunct Professor of Speech at the University of Rhode Island, Adjunct Professor of Law at Roger Williams College, and served as legal counsel to Governor DiPrete.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JOHH K. NAJARIAN 1922-1990; SERVED FOURTEEN YEARS AS FAMILY COURT JUDGE

On April 30, 1990, Associate Justice John K. Najarian passed away. He served on the Family Court bench from December 6, 1976 until his death at age 68.

Justice Najarian graduated from Providence College in 1943, and in 1955 he received his law degree from Boston University.

While practicing law, Justice Najarian served as probate judge in Johnston from 1961 to 1962 and 1973 to 1976. He also served as clerk and acting judge of the District Court from 1962 until 1969 when the court was reorganized and the positions were made full time.

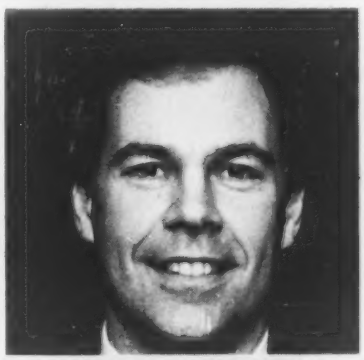
Justice Najarian was an active member in his church. He served as chairperson of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, which represents churches in the United States and Canada, and in 1982 he was the recipient of the Saint Gregory the Illuminator Award. The Saint Gregory award is the highest honor bestowed on a lay person by the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Chief Justice Fay, who served on the Family Court with Justice Najarian for eight years, described him as "an example of the consummate Family Court judge. He possessed a thorough knowledge of the law, a keen mind, and a caring attitude. He was a superb jurist and a wonderful person."

JUDGE ANTHONY J. DENNIS RETIRES; APPOINTED TO DISTRICT COURT IN 1969

On August 3, 1990 the most senior judge on the District Court, Associate Judge Anthony J. Dennis, retired. Judge Dennis was appointed to the District Court on September 15, 1969, and served as an Associate Judge for twenty-nine years.

Judge Dennis graduated from Providence College and Boston University Law School. He was admitted to the Rhode Island and Federal Bars in 1954, and served as Bristol Town Clerk for thirteen years.

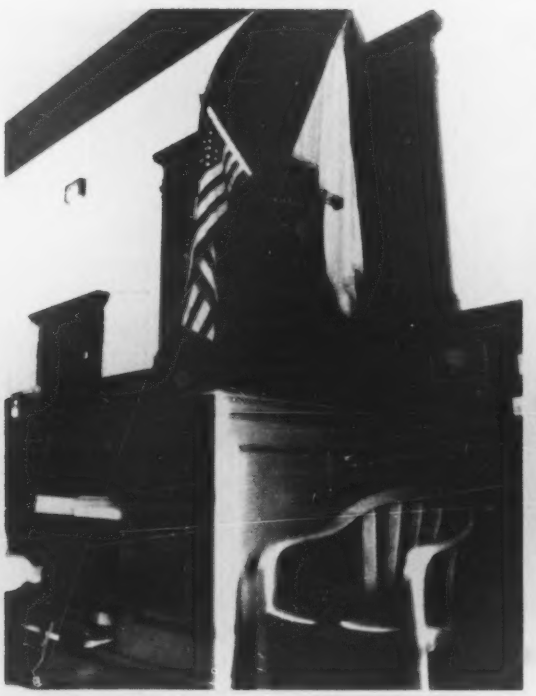


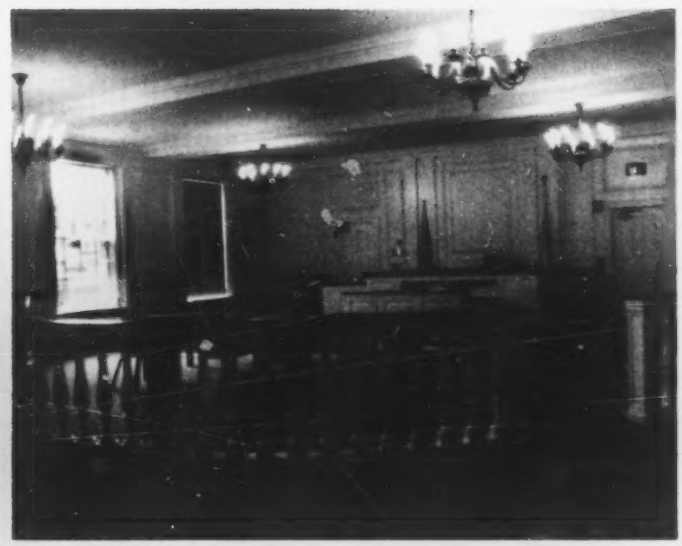
Associate Judge William T. Henry.

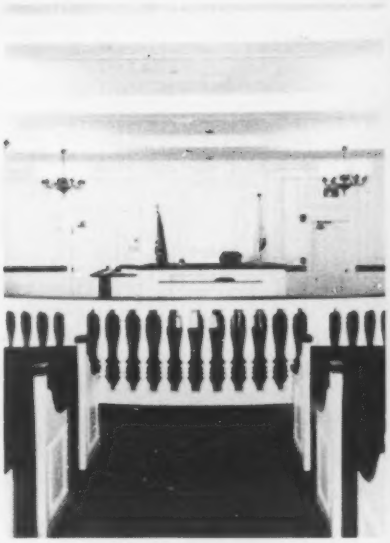
ASSOCIATE JUDGE WILLIAM T. HENRY DIES; SERVED TWO YEARS ON DISTRICT COURT BENCH

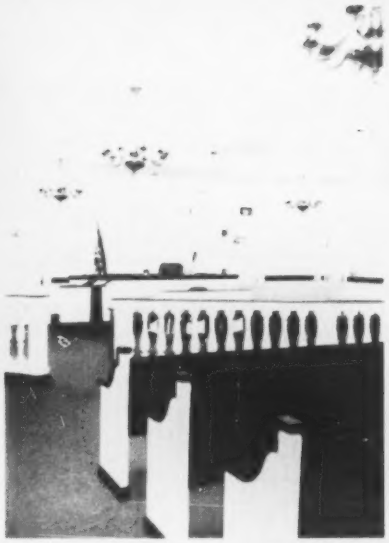
The Honorable William T. Henry died on June 2, 1990. Judge Henry was appointed to the District Court on February 11, 1988 after serving eight years as a state representative from Cranston. He attended Holy Cross College and was a graduate of Fordham Law School. He served as Cranston city solicitor from 1985 to 1988. Judge Henry is survived by his wife and two daughters.

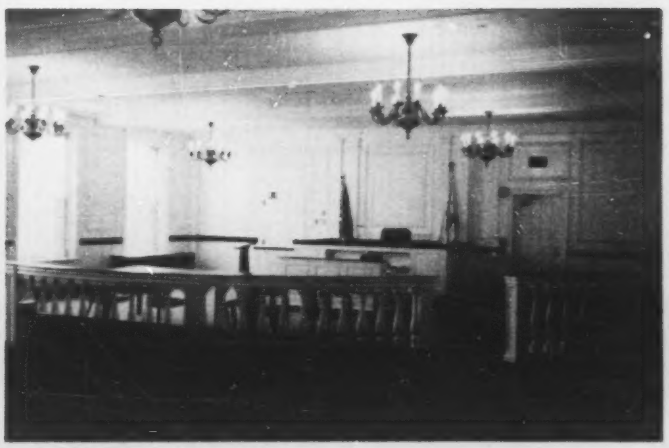
Pictorial: Murray Judicial Complex, the renovated and renamed courthouse serving Newport County.











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1990 JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT

THOMAS F. FAY, Chief Justice
THOMAS F. KELLEHER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER, Associate Justice
FLORENCE K. MURRAY, Associate Justice
DONALD F. SHEA, Associate Justice

SUPERIOR COURT

ANTHONY A. GIANNINI, Presiding Justice
JOHN E. ORTON, III, Associate Justice
THOMAS H. NEEDHAM, Associate Justice
JOHN P. BOURCIER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH F. RODGERS, JR., Associate Justice
CORINNE P. GRANDE, Associate Justice
DOMINIC F. CRESTO, Associate Justice
ANTONIO S. ALMEIDA, Associate Justice
PAUL P. PEDERZANI, JR., Associate Justice
THOMAS J. CALDARONE, JR., Associate Justice
ALICE BRIDGET GIBNEY, Associate Justice
RICHARD J. ISRAEL, Associate Justice
AMERICO CAMPANELLA, Associate Justice
ROBERT D. KRAUSE, Associate Justice
MELANIE WILK FAMIGLIETTI, Associate Justice
VINCENT A. RAGOSTA, Associate Justice
JOHN F. SHEEHAN, Associate Justice
RONALD R. GAGNON, Associate Justice
HENRY GEMMA, JR., Associate Justice
MARK A. PFEIFFER, Associate Justice
MAUREEN McK. GOLDBERG, Associate Justice
PATRICIA A. HURST, Associate Justice
ANTHONY CARNEVALE, JR., Special Master

FAMILY COURT

JEREMIAH S. JEREMIAH, JR., Chief Judge
CARMINE R. DiPETRILLO, Associate Justice
ROBERT G. CROUCHLEY, Associate Justice
JOSEPH S. GENDRON, Associate Justice
HAIGANUSH R. BEDROSIAN, Associate Justice
PAMELA M. MACKTAZ, Associate Justice
RAYMOND E. SHAWCROSS, Associate Justice
MICHAEL B. FORTE, Associate Justice
KATHLEEN A. VOCCOLA, Associate Justice
PAUL A. SUTTELL, Associate Justice
PETER PALOMBO, JR., Associate Justice
JOHN J. O'BRIEN, JR., General Master
DEBRA E. DiSEGNA, Master

DISTRICT COURT

ALBERT E. DeROBBIO, Chief Judge
VICTOR J. BERETTA, Associate Judge
JOHN J. CAPPELLI, Associate Judge
MICHAEL A. HIGGINS, Associate Judge
ALTON W. WILEY, Associate Judge
FRANCIS J. DARIGAN, JR., Associate Judge
ROBERT K. PIRRAGLIA, Associate Judge
ANTONIO SAOBENTO, JR., Associate Judge
PATRICIA D. MOORE, Associate Judge
O. ROGERIEE THOMPSON, Associate Judge
GILBERT V. INDEGLIA, Associate Judge
STEPHEN P. ERICKSON, Associate Judge

1990 COURT DIRECTORY

SUPREME COURT

250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI

Matthew J. Smith
State Court Administrator/Clerk 277-3263

Ronald A. Tutalo
Administrative Asst. to Chief Justice 277-3073

Gail Higgins Fogarty
General Counsel 277-3266

Judy S. Robbins
Staff Attorney 277-3266

Brian B. Burns
Chief Deputy Clerk/
Director of Bar Admissions 277-3272

Kendall F. Svengalis
State Law Librarian 277-3275

Martha Newcomb
Chief, Appellate Screening 277-3297

Law Clerk Pool 277-6536

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Robert C. Harrall
Deputy Administrator, State Courts 277-3266

Joseph D. Butler
Associate Administrator,
State Courts 277-3266

Edward J. Plunkett, Jr.
Executive Director, Rhode Island
Judicial Systems & Sciences (RIJSS) 277-3358

James J. Roberts
Director, Office of Public
Information 277-1355

Susan W. McCalmont
Assistant Administrator for
Policy and Programs 277-2500

Robert E. Johnson
Assistant Administrator for
Facilities and Operations 277-2600

William A. Melone
Assistant Administrator for
Human Resources 277-2700

Holly Hitchcock
Director, Court Education 277-2500

Linda D. Bonaccorsi
Chief, Employee Relations 277-2700

Frank G. Eldredge, Jr.
Manager, Judicial Revenue 277-2084

Linda F. Litchfield
EEO Officer 277-2700

Robert J. Melucci
State Coordinator,
Crime Victim Compensation
Program 277-2500

Victim Restitution Unit 277-2923

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

1025 Fleet National Bank
Providence, RI 02903

Girard R. Visconti
Chairman 277-3800

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903

Carol Zangari
Chairperson 277-3270

Mary M. Lisi
Disciplinary Counsel 277-3270

SUPERIOR COURT

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903

William J. McAtee, Esq.
Administrator 277-3215

Charles A. Aube
Chief Supervisory Clerk 277-2622

Frank R. Camara
Clerk, Providence and
Bristol Counties 277-3220

Michael Ahn
General Chief Clerk 277-3220

Raymond J. Gallogly
Jury Commissioner 277-3245

Henry G. Vivier
Assistant Jury Commissioner 277-3248

Evelyn A. Keene
Assistant Administrator for
Management and Finance 277-3215

Kathleen A. Maher
Assistant Administrator for
Planning and Case Flow
Management 277-3288

Bonnie L. Williamson
Manager of Calendar Services 277-3602

Thomas P. McGann
Security & Operations Manager 277-3292

Louis M. Cioci
Arbitration Program Administrator 277-6147

KENT COUNTY
22 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

Ernest W. Reposa
Clerk 822-1311

Eugene J. McMahon
Associate Jury Commissioner 822-0400

Thomas G. Healey
Manager of Calendar Services
(out-counties) 277-6645

WASHINGTON COUNTY
J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Henry S. Kinch, Jr.
Clerk 782-4121

NEWPORT COUNTY
Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex
Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Anne M. Collins
Clerk 841-8330

FAMILY COURT

J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI 02903

Earl J. Croft, Jr.
Administrator/Clerk 277-3334

Anthony T. Panichas
Deputy Administrator/Clerk 277-3331

Dolores M. Murphy
Chief Intake Supervisor (Juvenile) 277-3345

Barbara M. Rogers
Chief Family Counselor 277-3504

William Aliferakis
Supervising Clerk of Collections 277-3356

John Colafrancesco, Jr.
Supervisory Accountant 277-3300

Mary A. McKenna
Fiscal Officer 277-6684

F. Charles Haigh, Jr.
Chief Deputy Clerk
(Domestic Relations) 277-3340

Janet Diano
Principal Deputy Clerk (Juvenile) 277-3352

Francis B. Brown
CASA/GAL Director 277-6863

KENT COUNTY
22 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

Joyce C. Dube
Supervisory Deputy Clerk 822-1600

NEWPORT COUNTY
Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex
Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Ellen F. Burdett
Supervisory Deputy Clerk 841-8340

WASHINGTON COUNTY
J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Frank P. DeMarco
Supervisory Deputy Clerk 782-4111

DISTRICT COURT

Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI 02903

Joseph P. Ippolito, Esq.
Administrator 277-6777

Jerome Smith
Chief Clerk 277-6960

Patricia I. Dankievitch
Deputy Administrator 277-6960

Joseph Senerchia
Administrative Clerk 277-6960

Joan M. Godfrey
Assistant Administrator 277-6960

FIRST DIVISION
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Cynthia C. Clegg
Supervising Deputy Clerk/
Training Officer 277-6710

SECOND DIVISION
Florence K. Murrary Judicial Complex
Washington Square
Newport, RI 02804

Mary Alice Stender
Supervising Deputy Clerk 841-8350

THIRD DIVISION
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

James A. Signorelli
Chief Supervising Deputy Clerk 822-1771

FOURTH DIVISION
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

RoseMary T. Cantley
Supervising Deputy Clerk 782-4131

FIFTH DIVISION
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Alice Albuquerque
Supervising Deputy Clerk 277-6710

Donald L. St. Pierre
Supervising Deputy Clerk 277-6710

SIXTH DIVISION
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Kevin M. Spina
Principal Deputy Clerk 277-6710

Raymond E. Ricci
Supervising Deputy Clerk 277-6710

COMPENDIUM OF COURT BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Ethics Advisory Panel (L-R): Michael A. Paulhus, Scott K. Keefer, Robert D. Kilmarx, Lester H. Salter, William A. Gosz and Barbara Margolis.

Ethics Advisory Panel
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 47)

The Ethics Advisory Panel was established by order of the Supreme Court in December 1986. The panel's purpose is to provide Rhode Island attorneys with confidential advice concerning prospective conduct as an attorney under the Rules of Professional Conduct. Panel advice is protective in nature; there is no requirement that an attorney abide by a panel opinion, but if an attorney does abide by the panel's written opinion, that attorney will be fully protected from any subsequent charge of impropriety.

Panel opinions are edited to remove all identifying references and are published in this form in the Rhode Island Bar Journal and the Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly. The State Law Library maintains a set of edited panel opinions and a topical index. The ABA/BNA Manual on Professional Conduct also indexes and publishes summaries of panel opinion digests.

Five Rhode Island attorneys are appointed by the Supreme Court to serve one or two-year terms as members of the panel.

In 1990, fifty-eight written advisory opinions were issued by the panel, and the staff attorney logged more than 1,000 phone inquiries from attorneys seeking advice on ethical matters.

Members
Robert D. Kilmarx, Chair
Scott K. Keefer, Vice Chair
Barbara Margolis, Secretary
Lester H. Salter
Matthew F. Callaghan
William A. Gosz
Michael A. Paulhus, Staff Attorney

Committee on Character and Fitness (L-R seated): Alfred Factor, Bruce Q. Morin, Patricia A. Buckley; (L-R standing): Gail Higgins Fogarty, Brian B. Burns, Edward C. Clifton, Michael S. Schwartz, Judy S. Robbins.

Committee on Character and Fitness
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 34.1)

The Committee on Character and Fitness was established by the Supreme Court in March 1988. It is charged with establishing the moral character and fitness of each applicant to membership in the Rhode Island Bar. Applicants must provide the committee with personal information regarding their finances, criminal record, if any, and legal training. Applicants are also individually interviewed by a committee member.

Following the interview, the committee member may refer an applicant to the full committee for a hearing if he/she feels that such a review is warranted. The committee, after completion of its review, makes a recommendation to the Supreme Court as to whether an applicant should be admitted to the bar or be allowed to take the bar examination. Based on this recommendation, the court may either grant the applicant's request or require the applicant to show cause why the court should grant the request.

The committee has seven members who are appointed by the Supreme Court for three year terms.

Members
Bruce Q. Morin, Chair
Patricia A. Buckley
Michael S. Schwartz
Edward C. Parker
Ralph P. Semonoff
Alfred Factor
Brian B. Burns
Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary
Gail Higgins Fogarty, Staff Attorney
Judy S. Robbins, Staff Attorney
Edward Gorman, Investigator
Joseph F. Parenteau, Investigator

Board of Bar Examiners
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3272

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 33.38)

The Board of Bar Examiners is charged with examining applicants on their knowledge of the law.

The bar examination is given twice a year, the last Wednesday and Thursday of February and July. Applicants who take the examination must be graduates of an American Bar Association approved and accredited law school. An applicant must have received a scaled score of eighty on the Multistate Professional Responsibility exam prior to sitting for an examination. The Multistate Bar exam is given on the first day, and essay questions on Rhode Island law are given on the second day.

The board membership includes seven attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court. Members serve a term of five years. Their responsibilities include proctoring the bar examination, designing essay questions for the examination, and scoring the applicant responses to the questions. Attorney John F. Dolan is the current chairman of the board.

In 1990 the board recommended 223 applicants for admission to the bar. A program to photo-identify bar examination applicants was instituted this year for the first time.

Members
John F. Dolan, Chair
Robert Pitassi
Louise Durfee
Frank Williams
Alfred Factor
William A. Curran
Joseph A. Kelly
Brian B. Burns, Administrator
Beverly A. Clark, Secretary

Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02906
(401) 277-2374

(Pursuant to RIGL 8-16-1)

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline was created in 1974 and is empowered to investigate complaints against judges of the state court system, worker's compensation, and the administrative adjudication division. The commission may issue a private reprimand or recommend a judge's suspension, retirement, or removal from office to the Supreme Court.

The members of this commission are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a three year term.

Members
Honorable Edward V. Healey, Jr., Chair
Honorable Corinne P. Grande
Honorable Carmine R. DiPetrillo
Honorable Michael A. Higgins
William G. Gilroy
Representative Joseph DeAngelis
Representative Gaetano D. Parella
Nancy Parsons Doolittle
Richard F. Staples
Bradley L. Steere
James P. Flynn
Senator David P. Kerins
Eileen Gleeson
Deborah A. Smith

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee (L-R): Joseph T. Little, Robert V. Rossi, Avram N. Cohen, Paul K. Sprague, Nettie C. Vogel.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-6036

(Pursuant to RIGL 11-27-19)

The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee was established in 1984 and is responsible for investigating alleged instances of unauthorized individuals practicing law. In conjunction with the Department of the Attorney General, this committee prosecutes criminal violations under the practice of law chapter of the General Laws.

There are seven committee members who are appointed by the Supreme Court and must be members of the Rhode Island Bar. The Committee receives complaints from members of the Bar, the general public, and members of the Federal Judiciary operating within the State of Rhode Island, and members of the State Judiciary.

In addition to conducting litigation, the Committee has been active this past year in pressing for legislation to regulate collection agencies. The basis for this legislation has been the United States First Circuit Court of Appeals decision in National Revenue Service vs. Violet. This decision effectively declared a Rhode Island Statute barring the operation of collection agencies within the State of Rhode Island to be unconstitutional because it limited the business of debt collecting within the State of Rhode Island to a class of persons who are primarily citizens of the State of Rhode Island. According to the court, this constituted an impermissible burden upon interstate commerce. Nevertheless, Federal Courts have held that the business of debt collection is one which has an impact on the interest of the public and may be subject to regulation by the states.

Since most litigation initiated by the Committee requests injunctive relief, the Chairman is required to sign verified complaints and to testify in court hearings. Although all litigation is handled by the Office of the Attorney General, committee members, and particularly the Chairman, draft substantially all of the necessary pleadings and do all the required legal research.

The following are the seven members of the Committee:

Members

Avram N. Cohen, Esq., Chairman

Joseph T. Little, Esq.	Richard A. Boren, Esq.
Netti C. Vogel, Esq.	Albert J. Mainelli, Esq.
Robert V. Rossi, Esq.	Paul K. Sprague, Esq.

Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics (L-R): Associate Judge Alton W. Wiley; Associate Justices Pamela M. Macktaz, Alice Bridget Gibney and John E. Orton, III.

Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-2700

(Pursuant to Canon 31, Supreme Court Rule 48)

The Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics was created in 1983 when the Supreme Court amended Canon 31 of the Canons of Judical Ethics. The amendment specifies restrictions on judicial participation in testimonials and fundraising, and section (D) sets out the criteria for deciding the propriety of judges' involvement in these events. The amended Canon also establishes an Advisory Committee with membership drawn from the several state courts and specifies that its role is "to assist judges in complying with the canons," by responding to requests for opinions.

Advisory opinions are often sought to confirm if the value of the plaque or other token of recognition being offered to a judge at an event is within the guidelines of the canons. These opinions also help judges communicate the restrictions imposed by the canons to groups requesting their help in worthy causes. The committee can also respond to requests for advice on other canons.

Committee members are appointed to staggered two-year terms. The Supreme Court usually appoints members for a single term only so that both the burden and experience of this duty is shared widely by members of the judiciary.

Members

Associate Justice John E. Orton III, Superior Court, Chair
Associate Justice Alice Bridget Gibney, Superior Court
Associate Justice Pamela M. Macktaz, Family Court
Associate Judge Alton W. Wiley, District Court
Associate Judge Antonio SaoBento, Jr., District Court

The committee responded to fifteen requests in 1990 by issuing written opinions in all matters brought before it.

Disciplinary Board (L-R seated): Marifrancis K.McGinn, John E. McCann, III, Carol Zangari, Ralph P. Semonoff; (L-R standing): Edward C. Clifton, Marilyn S. McConaghy, E. Howland Bowen and George Salem.

Disciplinary Board
Rhode Island Supreme Court
250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-3270

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 42-4)

The Disciplinary Board has nine (9) members. They are appointed by the Supreme Court and must be members of the Rhode Island Bar. The board reviews all complaints of professional misconduct by attorneys, authorizes the filing of formal charges, and makes findings and recommendations for discipline. The board may also petition the Supreme Court to place an attorney on an inactive status in cases where the attorney is incapacitated from continuing the practice of law by mental or physical infirmity. In addition, the board may call respondent-attorneys to appear before the board for the purpose of clarifying or explaining provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Members

Carol Zangari, Chair
Jeffrey J. Teitz, Vice Chair
Edward C. Clifton
John E. McCann, III
Marilyn S. McConaghy
Marifrances K. McGinn
George Salem
Ralph P. Semonoff
E. Howland Bowen
Mary M. Lisi,
Disciplinary Counsel

Disciplinary Board
Statistical Tables for 1990

Complaints received	607*

Nature of Complaints

A. Dissatisfaction with manner handled	192
B. Fee Dispute	86
C. Neglect	138
D. Failure to Act Within Statutory or Court Rule Period	4
E. Failure to Account for Funds	67
F. Conviction of a Crime	5
G. Conflict of Interest	12
H. No Violation of Code but Conduct Reflects Adversely on Bar	39
I. Violation of a Disciplinary Rule Other than Above	184

*The total columns will exceed the number of complaints received because of complaints in more than one category.

Court Actions

Private Censures	5
Public Censures	0
Suspensions	15
Disbarments	4
Transferred to inactive status	0
Reinstatements	0

Board Actions

Complaints Dismissed	433
Complaints Dismissed with Admonition or Cautionary Letter	102
Fee Arbitration	1
Petition to Issue	11
Referred to Court (Rule 42-6E)	17
Decision to Court (Rule 42-6B)	14
Pending Matters as of 1990	330

CASELOAD STATISTICS

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

APPELLATE CASEFLOW

CASE TYPES	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
CRIMINAL					
Added	107	110	98	94	**110**
Disposed	70	132	89	91	**89**
Pending	101	80	79	82	**94**
CIVIL					
Added	247	228	295	305	**310**
Disposed	375	295	262	286	**327**
Pending	255	184	229	250	**237**
CERTIORARI					
Added	135	174	168	175	**152**
Disposed	158	187	161	158	**179**
Pending	103	89	98	115	**88**
OTHER					
Added	63	43	57	57	**73**
Disposed	56	48	46	64	**77**
Pending	19	9	20	15	**10**
ALL CASES					
Added	552	555	618	631	**635**
Disposed	659	666	558	592	**672**
Pending	478	362	426	462	**429**

DISPOSITION DETAIL

MANNER AND STAGE OF DISPOSITION	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
BEFORE ARGUMENT					
Withdrawn	88	65	73	69	64
Dismissed	89	87	80	97	99
Petition Granted	7	3	8	4	1
Petition Denied	115	124	108	96	119
Other	7	13	15	15	29
TOTAL	306	292	284	281	312
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MOTION CALENDAR					
Withdrawn	2	—	—	1	—
Affirmed	138	146	98	114	143
Modified	—	—	—	—	2
Reversed	11	22	14	16	25
16G Affirmed		—	—	—	—
Other	24	27	22	33	29
TOTAL	176	195	134	164	199
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MERITS					
Withdrawn	2	—	3	1	3
Affirmed	122	125	95	94	102
Modified	8	8	12	9	7
Reversed	45	46	30	43	49
Other	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	177	179	140	147	161
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	659	666	558	592	672
AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION	12.9 mos.	10.8 mos.	8.3 mos.	8.5 mos.	8.5 mos.
MEDIAN TIME TO DISPOSITION	10.3 mos.	9.6 mos.	6.1 mos.	6.5 mos.	8.1 mos.

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

FELONIES	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	3,128	3,020	5,142	5,049	4,385
Cases Disposed	3,181	3,102	4,192	5,227	4,126
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-53	-82	+950	-178	+259
Total Pending Cases	1,988	1,643	2,407	1,877	1,997
Cases Over 180 Days Old	1,275	1,171	1,487	1,160	1,289
% Over 180 Days Old	(64.1%)	(71.3%)	(61.7%)	(61.8%)	(64.5%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	613	622	768	757	839
Cases Disposed	677	694	679	715	701
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-64	-72	+89	+42	+138
Total Pending Cases	201	92	210	225	260
Cases Over 180 Days Old	105	31	27	69	128
% Over 180 Days Old	(52.2%)	(33.76%)	(12.9%)	(30.7%)	(49.2%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	346	397	453	487	480
Cases Disposed	221	311	376	419	401
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+125	+86	+77	+68	+79
Total Pending Cases	160	196	196	244	273
Cases Over 180 Days Old	77	94	85	105	163
% Over 180 Days Old	(48.1%)	(48.0%)	(43.4%)	(43%)	(59.7%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	273	239	322	447	307
Cases Disposed	297	185	241	215	306
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-24	+54	+81	+232	+1
Total Pending Cases	130	138	196	325	265
Cases Over 180 Days Old	62	96	99	194	179
% Over 180 Days Old	(47.6%)	(69.6%)	(50.5%)	(59.7%)	(67.5%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740	6,011
Cases Disposed	4,376	4,292	5,488	6,576	5,534
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-16	-14	+1,197	+164	+477
Total Pending Cases	2,479	2,069	3,009	2,671	2,795
Cases Over 180 Days Old	1,519	1,392	1,698	1,528	1,759
% Over 180 Days Old	(61.2%)	(67.3%)	(56.4%)	(57.2%)	(62.9%)

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	767	471	866	566	493
Cases Disposed	601	508	553	725	510
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+166	-37	+313	-159	-17
Total Pending Cases	478	427	524	507	387
Cases Over 180 Days Old	209	252	152	416	211
% Over 180 Days Old	(43.7%)	(59%)	(29%)	(82%)	(54.5%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	176	192	136	162	89
Cases Disposed	267	223	137	157	105
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-91	-31	-1	+5	-16
Total Pending Cases	57	24	22	38	44
Cases Over 180 Days Old	19	2	1	12	20
% Over 180 Days Old	(33.3%)	(8.3%)	(4.5%)	(31.6%)	(45.5%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	158	120	107	77	37
Cases Disposed	77	107	96	84	55
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+81	+13	+11	-7	-18
Total Pending Cases	87	81	51	32	31
Cases Over 180 Days Old	30	32	34	18	22
% Over 180 Days Old	(34.4%)	(39.5%)	(66.6%)	(56.2%)	(71%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	61	83	69	62	41
Cases Disposed	82	81	92	42	42
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-21	+2	-23	+20	-1
Total Pending Cases	49	92	69	109	121
Cases Over 180 Days Old	9	31	32	86	90
% Over 180 Days Old	(18.3%)	(33.7%)	(46.3%)	(78.9%)	(74.4%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	1,162	866	1,178	867	660
Cases Disposed	1,028	919	878	1,008	712
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+134	-53	+300	-141	-52
Total Pending Cases	671	468	666	686	583
Cases Over 180 Days Old	267	257	219	532	343
% Over 180 Days Old	(39.7%)	(55.0%)	(32.9%)	(77.5%)	(58.8%)

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

FELONIES	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	2,532	2,447	3,515	4,498	3,551
Filed		72	48	44	36
Dismissal	552	482	547	599	435
Trial	97	97	74	86	103
Other		4	8	0	1
TOTAL	3,181	3,102	4,192	5,227	4,126
KENT					
Plea	494	599	597	668	653
Filed		5	4	2	4
Dismissal	148	60	44	31	29
Trial	35	29	27	14	15
Other		1	7	0	0
TOTAL	677	694	679	715	701
WASHINGTON					
Plea	178	276	326	342	317
Filed		2	11	4	9
Dismissal	33	29	28	52	52
Trial	10	2	8	21	21
Other		2	3	0	2
TOTAL	221	311	376	419	401
NEWPORT					
Plea	264	151	196	181	246
Filed		2	3	1	3
Dismissal	28	22	26	28	39
Trial	5	9	16	5	18
Other	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	297	185	241	215	306
STATEWIDE					
Plea	3,468	3,473	4,634	5,689	4,767
Filed		81	66	51	52
Dismissal	761	593	645	710	555
Trial	147	137	125	126	157
Other		8	18	0	3
TOTAL	4,376	4,292	5,488	6,576	5,534

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	439	259	303	511	291
Filed		51	59	56	55
Dismissal	127	159	147	146	146
Trial	35	18	11	12	9
Other		21	33	0	9
TOTAL	601	508	553	725	510
KENT					
Plea	187	152	93	120	75
Filed		14	8	8	7
Dismissal	68	24	15	25	16
Trial	13	14	17	4	3
Other		19	4	0	4
TOTAL	268	223	137	157	105
WASHINGTON					
Plea	54	66	70	41	21
Filed		7	4	4	7
Dismissal	20	19	15	31	9
Trial	3	3	0	8	4
Other		12	7	0	14
TOTAL	77	107	96	84	55
NEWPORT					
Plea	52	49	56	27	27
Filed		7	6	4	1
Dismissal	25	16	27	11	9
Trial	5	7	1	0	2
Other		2	2	0	3
TOTAL	82	81	92	42	42
STATEWIDE					
Plea	732	526	522	699	414
Filed		79	77	72	70
Dismissal	240	218	204	213	180
Trial	56	42	29	24	18
Other		54	46	0	30
TOTAL	1,028	919	878	1,008	712

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW

CIVIL ACTIONS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Total Cases Filed	5,598	5,751	6,128	7,090	8,564
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,056	1,889	1,857	1,732	1,800
Cases Disposed	1,665	2,028	2,156	1,870	2,306
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+391	-139	-299	-138	-506
Pending at Year End	5,595	5,456	5,157	5,019	4,513
KENT					
Total Cases Filed	1,154	1,375	1,442	1,570	1,450
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	370	446	531	553	620
Cases Disposed	530	291	254	365	442
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-160	+155	+277	+188	+178
Pending at Year End	394	549	826	1,014	1,192
WASHINGTON					
Total Cases Filed	601	672	680	826	834
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	178	162	184	253	263
Cases Disposed	86	76	92	223	177
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+92	+86	+92	+130	+86
Pending at Year End	288	374	466	496	582
NEWPORT					
Total Cases Filed	509	607	613	635	622
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	134	162	171	135	117
Cases Disposed	92	69	87	109	138*
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+42	+93	+84	+26	-21
Pending at Year End	199	292	376	402	381
STATEWIDE					
Total Cases Filed	7,867	8,404	8,863	10,121	11,470
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,738	2,659	2,743	2,673	2,800
Cases Disposed	2,348	2,464	2,589	2,567	3,071
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+390	+195	+154	+106	-271
Pending at Year End	6,476	6,671	6,825	6,931	6,668

**An audit of the calendar found many disposed cases, and all were counted as if they were 1990 dispositions. The actual number of dispositions reported for the year was 90.*

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION — TRIAL CALENDAR ONLY

CIVIL ACTIONS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Verdicts	68	76	98	68	88
Judicial Decisions	45	61	87	90	66
Total Trials	113	137	185	158	154
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,552	1,891	1,971	1,712	2,152
Total Disposed	1,665	2,028	2,156	1,870	2,306
KENT					
Verdicts	18	16	10	24	26
Judicial Decisions	147	40	17	6	23
Total Trials	165	56	27	30	49
Dismissed/Settled/Other	365	235	227	335	393
Total Disposed	530	291	254	365	442
WASHINGTON					
Verdicts	1	0	1	8	10
Judicial Decisions	7	0	3	18	9
Total Trials	8	0	4	26	19
Dismissed/Settled/Other	78	76	88	197	158
Total Disposed	86	76	92	223	177
NEWPORT					
Verdicts	6	2	3	3	0
Judicial Decisions	13	11	2	2	2
Total Trials	19	13	5	5	2
Dismissed/Settled/Other	48	48	82	102	136
Total Disposed	67	61	87	107	138*
STATEWIDE					
Verdicts	91	94	108	103	124
Judicial Decisions	210	112	102	116	100
Total Trials	301	206	210	219	224
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,746	2,189	2,239	2,225	2,839
Total Disposed	2,047	2,395	2,449	2,444	3,063

**There were 90 cases disposed in 1990, but an audit showed 48 cases previously disposed still on the calendar.*

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

JUVENILE CASEFLOW

JUVENILE FILINGS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Wayward/Delinquent	4,935	5,151	5,432	5,710	**5,794**
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	666	697	739	994	**1,283**
Termination of Parental Rights	217	204	205	193	**208**
Other	967	911	987	1,021	**859**
Total Filings	6,785	6,963	7,363	7,918	**8,144**
Total Dispositions	6,278	6,702	6,514	7,037	**7,404**
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+507	+261	+849	+881	**+740**
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Added	2,299	2,294	2,411	2,795	**3,316**
Cases Disposed	2,265	2,257	2,373	2,842	**3,030**
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+34	+37	+38	-47	**+286**
Total Pending Cases	301	338	376	329	**615**
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases over 90 Days Old	30	33	44	58	**111**
KENT					
Cases Added	569	578	619	687	**729**
Cases Disposed	562	575	604	682	**695**
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+7	+3	+15	+5	**+34**
Total Pending Cases	73	76	91	96	**130**
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases over 90 Days Old	16	13	12	31	**24**
WASHINGTON					
Cases Added	250	330	247	303	**324**
Cases Disposed	245	323	263	288	**310**
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+5	+7	-16	+15	**+14**
Total Pending Cases	43	50	34	49	**63**
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases over 90 Days Old	9	8	6	17	**13**
NEWPORT					
Cases Added	275	245	312	346	**378**
Cases Disposed	264	270	301	346	**349**
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+11	-25	+11	—	**+29**
Total Pending Cases	55	30	41	41	**70**
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases over 90 Days Old	20	4	8	13	**23**

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

JUVENILE CASEFLOW (cont.)

JUVENILE FILINGS (cont.)	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
STATEWIDE					
Cases Added	3,393	3,447	3,589	4,131	4,747
Cases Disposed	3,336	3,425	3,541	4,158	4,384
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+57	+22	+48	-27	+363
Total Pending Cases	472	494	542	515	878
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases over 90 Days Old	75	58	70	119	171
Average Time to Disposition	73.7 days	77.8 days	74.1 days	83 days	86.7 days

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW

DIVORCE PETITIONS FILED	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Providence/Bristol	3,174	3,134	3,035	3,088	3,022
Kent	822	818	871	879	875
Newport	437	405	578	415	412
Washington	493	547	733	559	591
STATEWIDE TOTAL	4,926	4,904	5,217	4,941	4,900

CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Added	571	547	533	480	625
Cases Disposed	579	510	635	528	545
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-8	+37	-102	-48	+80
Total Pending Cases	372	409	307	259	339
Cases Over 180 Days Old	86	116	73	42	42
Cases Over 360 Days Old	8	24	17	5	7
KENT					
Cases Added	211	236	212	268	211
Cases Disposed	213	200	263	208	253
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-2	+36	-51	+60	-42
Total Pending Cases	103	139	88	148	106
Cases Over 180 Days Old	23	30	23	36	20
Cases Over 360 Days Old	0	1	4	1	6

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW (cont.)

CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS (cont.)	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
WASHINGTON					
Cases Added	109	104	132	165	139
Cases Disposed	63	112	121	173	130
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+46	-8	+11	-8	+9
Total Pending Cases	103	95	106	98	107
Cases Over 180 Days Old	47	43	47	32	49
Cases Over 360 Days Old	9	8	5	3	12
NEWPORT					
Cases Added	90	83	78	90	49
Cases Disposed	84	86	83	104	52
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+6	-3	-5	-14	-3
Total Pending Cases	50	47	42	28	25
Cases Over 180 Days Old	17	7	14	10	1
Cases Over 360 Days Old	3	2	0	0	0
STATEWIDE					
Cases Added					1,024
Cases Disposed					980
Caseload Increase/Decrease					+44
Total Pending Cases					577
Cases Over 180 Days Old					112
Cases Over 360 Days Old					25
Average Time to Disposition					176.1 days
ABUSE COMPLAINTS					
Providence/Bristol	—	—	—	—	2,409
Kent	—	—	—	—	390
Washington	—	—	—	—	275
Newport	—	—	—	—	189
TOTAL	1,985	2,310	2,655	3,098	3,263

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

MISDEMEANORS	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
FIRST DIVISION					
Charges Filed	1,220	1,340	1,687	1,813	2,196
Charges Disposed	1,210	1,246	1,733	1,685	1,821
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+10	+94	-46	+128	+375
SECOND DIVISION					
Charges Filed	3,690	3,903	4,527	4,888	5,578
Charges Disposed	3,677	3,620	4,106	4,467	5,492
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+13	+283	+421	+421	+86
THIRD DIVISION					
Charges Filed	6,164	6,746	8,101	9,355	10,417
Charges Disposed	5,942	6,049	7,235	8,698	9,406
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+222	+697	+866	+657	+1,011
FOURTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	4,840	5,322	5,923	7,280	6,049
Charges Disposed	4,815	5,051	5,686	7,170	5,991
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+25	+271	+237	+110	+58
FIFTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	3,789	3,737	4,341	4,270	4,566
Charges Disposed	3,286	3,459	3,564	4,131	3,722
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+503	+278	+777	+139	+844
SIXTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	6,735	6,760	7,507	7,146	13,523
Charges Disposed	4,943	5,548	5,522	6,662	11,819
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,792	+1,212	+1,985	+484	+1,704
SEVENTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	2,804	2,813	3,053	3,798	4,399
Charges Disposed	2,746	2,615	3,043	3,744	4,225
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+58	+198	+10	+54	+174
EIGHTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	4,097	4,287	4,532	4,631	†
Charges Disposed	3,616	4,168	4,029	4,735	†
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+481	+119	+503	-104	

†Eighth division combined with sixth division.

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS (cont.)	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
COURTWIDE					
Charges Filed	33,339	34,908	39,671	43,181	46,728
Charges Disposed	30,235	31,756	34,918	41,292	42,476
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+3,104	+3,152	+4,753	+1,889	+4,352
Total Pending Charges	3,001	2,545	3,180	*	*
Charges Over 60 Days Old	647	472	428	*	*
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Pleas	17,205	16,957	18,470	*	*
Filed	3,774	4,932	5,218	*	*
Dismissed	7,129	8,036	8,866	*	*
Trials	547	477	542	*	*
Others	883	779	880	*	*
Charges Transferred	697	575	942	*	*
TOTAL	30,235	31,756	34,918	*	*
Charges Appealed	278	410	225	*	*
FELONIES					
COURTWIDE					
Charges Filed	8,233	10,071	10,422	10,181	10,401
Charges Disposed	6,559	6,692	10,326	*	*
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Charged	4,056	4,241	6,781	*	*
Not Charged/Dismissed	2,503	2,451	3,545	*	*
TOTAL	6,559	6,692	10,326	*	*

**unavailable due to automated system changeover.*

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW

REGULAR CIVIL	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
FIRST DIVISION					
Charges Filed	298	402	393	433	413
Charges Disposed	225	312	401	271	414
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+73	+90	-8	+162	-1
SECOND DIVISION					
Charges Filed	935	1,002	991	1,225	1,526
Charges Disposed	556	669	1,378	1,117	893
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+379	+333	-387	+108	+633
THIRD DIVISION					
Charges Filed	2,295	2,537	2,120	2,550	3,054
Charges Disposed	2,578	3,053	2,052	1,679	3,423
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-283	-516	+68	+871	-369
FOURTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	1,184	1,316	1,399	1,427	1,700
Charges Disposed	857	824	1,501	1,609	1,373
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+327	+492	-102	-182	+327
FIFTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	2,081	2,232	2,373	2,750	2,592
Charges Disposed	3,558	3,762	5,475	1,752	1,489
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-1,477	-1,530	-3,102	+998	+1103
SIXTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	11,801	9,604	9,103	9,124	11,664
Charges Disposed	6,933	8,395	8,359	8,606	6,586
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+4,868	+1,209	+744	+518	+5,078
SEVENTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	963	1,080	1,107	1,245	1,369
Charges Disposed	593	839	689	670	761
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+360	+241	+418	+575	+608
EIGHTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	1,569	1.726	940	2,018	†
Charges Disposed	1,063	1,077	847	1,274	†
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+506	+649	+93	+744	

†Eighth division combined with sixth division.

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW (cont.)

REGULAR CIVIL (cont.)	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
COURTWIDE					
Cases Filed	21,116	19,899	19,215	20,772	22,015
Cases Disposed	16,663	19,030	24,770	16,978	14,939
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	9,020	9,283	9,448	8,096	5,070
Settlements	3,803	4,723	5,856	4,680	6,109
Judgments	3,840	5,025	5,656	3,747	3,736
Transfers	107	99	211	455	24
Other		4,971	3,599	*	*
TOTAL	16,770	24,101	24,770	16,978	14,939
Appeals	303	321	266	256	483
SMALL CLAIMS					
FIRST DIVISION					
Charges Filed	512	609	411	1,049	934
Charges Disposed	457	482	371	634	856
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+55	+127	+40	+415	+78
SECOND DIVISION					
Charges Filed	713	929	836	1,037	1,200
Charges Disposed	455	715	725	1,200	2,509
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+258	+214	+111	-163	-1309
THIRD DIVISION					
Charges Filed	2,126	2,100	2,614	3,543	3,307
Charges Disposed	2,275	2,539	3,020	3,759	4,121
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-149	-439	-406	-216	-814
FOURTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	1,063	1,317	1,887	2,330	2,207
Charges Disposed	959	1,184	1,776	2,096	1,997
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+104	+133	+111	+234	+210
FIFTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	1,617	1,781	1,684	2,004	1,872
Charges Disposed	2,424	3,166	4,048	1,080	1,024
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-807	-1,385	-2,364	+924	+848

**unavailable due to automated system changeover.*

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW (cont.)

SMALL CLAIMS (cont.)	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
SIXTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	3,771	4,367	3,791	4,083	7,255
Charges Disposed	2,061	2,133	2,074	2,259	3,034
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,710	+2,234	+1,717	+1,824	+4,221
SEVENTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	773	950	940	928	1,218
Charges Disposed	605	748	847	883	1,265
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+168	+202	+93	+45	-47
EIGHTH DIVISION					
Charges Filed	2,079	2,002	2,800	3,325	†
Charges Disposed	1,255	1,458	1,890	3,130	†
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+824	+544	+910	+195	
COURTWIDE					
Cases Filed	12,654	14,055	14,963	18,299	17,447
Cases Disposed	10,691	12,725	14,851	15,041	14,806
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	6,383	6,602	7,321	7,975	2,493
Settlements	1,998	2,974	3,527	5,016	7,305
Judgments	2,310	3,149	4,003	2,050	5,008
TOTAL	10,691	12,725	14,851	15,041	14,806
Appeals	131	192	131	138	312

†Eighth division combined with sixth division.